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HUMES'S CANER UCARLI**

**A-LEAGUE KICK OFF
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Weekly

Season 5: Issue 20 Monday 27th July 2009

Photo: Daniel Flis

LIONS CRASH GEORGIES' PARTY!

**PRESTON FAILS TO READ THE SCRIPT IN
CHAPLIN RESERVE SEND-OFF**

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The intimidating "chicken run"

SUN COMES DOWN ON CHAPLIN RESERVE



Last orders at the Bar

The final whistle blew at Chaplin Reserve yesterday after over fifty years of hosting football at the historic ground. Unfortunately for the Sunshine Georgies they couldn't give the venue a winning send-off as the Preston Lions secured their second win of the season with a 0-1 result. GW photographer Daniel Flis was at the match to record a pictorial of a genuine piece of Victorian football landscape. Thanks for the memories Chaplin Reserve. We will miss you!



Inside the social club



The Press Box



Last orders at the canteen

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Front Cover

Sunshine players trudge off the Chaplin Reserve pitch after coming undone 0-1 to Preston Lions.

Photo: Daniel Flis



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REDS TAKE CAUTIOUS APPROACH WITH RECOVERED OWUSU

Adelaide United FC striker Lloyd Owusu has fought off the affects of swine flu and pneumonia that kept him isolated for three weeks, but The Reds are not going to rush their new target man into action ahead of the Hyundai A-League 2009/10 Season.

Owusu joined United head coach Aurelio Vidmar for the official but belated 'shirt presentation' and 'unveiling' of the former Ghana international at Thebarton Oval earlier last week. It was Owusu's first club and public appearance since he was diagnosed with swine flu shortly after arriving in Adelaide three weeks ago.

The 32 year old, who has been in isolation for a fortnight, says he is no longer feeling any ill effects of the virus, and is now eager to put the setback behind him and start getting himself in a condition to contribute to The Reds on the field.

"I'm actually feeling really good now to be fair. The doctor was really surprised with the way I've responded to the treatment so I'm on the mend, all I can do now is condition myself right, do the right things, eat the right food, drink plenty of fluids and I'll be back," Owusu said.

"It has been frustrating. It has been three weeks of being on my own...but luckily for myself I'm on the mend now so all I can do

is hopefully get back on the park, start light training and take it from there."

But while Owusu may be free of the influenza, Vidmar says he is going to take the cautious approach with his high profile signing, and ensure he is fully fit before introducing him to the Hyundai A-League.

With the season less than two weeks away, Vidmar believes Owusu is likely to miss at least the opening four rounds.

"Realistically I would say anywhere between 6-8 weeks," Vidmar predicted on Owusu being ready for action.

"Certainly we don't want to push him too early and try and force and rush him back into the team where he might end up getting extra niggles, so we're going to be really cautious with him and if it takes us six, seven, eight weeks then that's how it is."

"He's got probably 15-20 years of being a professional footballer so he's got that condition in his body so it won't take long for him to get up to speed. In saying that, he needs a decent base to make sure he lasts the rest of the season so that's the first thing we'll be working on."

Owusu concurs with Vidmar's view, and while the noted goal scorer would like to be part of United's 2009/10 campaign from the start, he knows getting up to full fitness will take time.

"Don't get me wrong, every player wants



The shirt presentation to Owusu also coincided with the announcement of Modern Solar as Adelaide United's Back of Shirt Sponsor for the upcoming Hyundai A-League season.

to play as many games as they can but unfortunately for myself with the circumstances, it's most likely I'm not going to be able to do that so I've just got to make sure I watch the way I train now for the next few weeks and we'll take it from there," Owusu said.

FURY FC RELEASES SANTALAB



North Queensland Fury FC has released striker Brendon Santalab from his two-year contract.

Fury CEO Dean Hassall said an agreement had been reached which allowed Santalab to join Chinese Super League club Chengdu Blades.

Details of that agreement remain confidential between the player and the clubs.

PETRILLO RETURNS AS REDS FOOTBALL DIRECTOR

Former Adelaide United FC Director of Football Michael Petrillo will return to the club to head up The Reds' football department.

In a reshuffle of the club's football administration personnel, Petrillo will take over from Michael Valkanis, who replaced Petrillo in the role back in March.

Adelaide United CEO Sam Ciccarello said on the announcement, "We see Michael Petrillo as one of the best football directors in the Hyundai A-League, so we're just delighted to get him back and get him involved in what is going to be a very challenging and exciting Hyundai A-League and ACL campaign coming up."

"On hearing that Michael Petrillo was pos-

sibly looking to relocate back to Adelaide for family reasons, we initiated some discussions with him in relation to the Football Director position, and this followed some earlier discussions where Michael Valkanis expressed his desire to take on a more active role in coaching."

"So with Michael Valkanis wanting to pursue his coaching career, we were delighted to be able to put an arrangement together that sees Michael Petrillo re-starting as the Director of Football at the club."

Petrillo has been fulfilling a similar role with new Hyundai A-League franchise North Queensland Fury for the past four months, but he is now looking forward to heading back to South Australia and rejoining United.

Valkanis will head up Adelaide United's Football Academy, which the club is currently establishing to help develop elite male players, aged 12-14. More details of the Academy will be released in the coming months.

URUGUAY'S MINOR REVENGE!

The Australian U-20 Men's team, the Qantas Young Socceroos, played out a scoreless draw with Uruguay but lost the penalty shoot-out 3-4 in their opening match of the Copa Ciudad de Rosario tournament in Argentina.

With two Sydney FC players, Antony Golec and Chris Payne, making their international debuts and a new combination of players in the line-up, the Qantas Young Socceroos began the match in a cautious manner.

In an evenly balanced first half, the best opportunity for the Qantas Young Socceroos came just after the half hour mark when a Uruguayan error in midfield resulted in a turnover in possession. Jason Hoffman was set-up with a one-on-one opportunity with the Uruguayan goalkeeper, but unfortunately his shot went over the crossbar.

The early part of the second half was played out in similar fashion and the Qantas Young Socceroos had another great chance to take

the lead in the 53rd minute when a cross from Jason Hoffman rebounded off the Uruguay keeper. The ball was pushed out to the top of the box whereupon Kofi Danning unleashed a stinging shot that struck the left post and came back into play but out of danger.

The Qantas Young Socceroos dominated for the remainder of the match, but were unable to find the back of the net.

With the score line locked at 0-0 at the end of regulation time, the match went straight to a penalty shoot-out.

Jason Hoffman, Aaron Mooy and Chris Payne converted their shots, but Nathan Elasi and Peter Cvetanovski missed their attempts which gave Uruguay the win as they had scored all four of their penalties.

Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen was pleased with his team's first match on tour.

"We had some new players today and it took us a while to get into the flow of the match,"

said Versleijen.

"Jason Hoffman had good chances in the first half which unfortunately he couldn't convert.

"In the second half we controlled the mid-field and this started to create chances.

"The last 15 minutes of the game the field opened up allowing both teams some greater chances to score.

"We had our opportunities, but Uruguay had better luck in the penalty shoot out," concluded Versleijen.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will face the USA on Monday afternoon (local time) and then C.A. Tiro Federal on Wednesday evening (local time).

The tournament is the final warm-up for the Qantas Young Socceroos before the FIFA U-20 World Cup to be held in Egypt from 24 September to 16 October. Australia has drawn Brazil, Costa Rica and the Czech Republic in the group stage.



VPL STANDINGS



	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong Thunder	19	12	5	2	36	19	41
Hume City	19	10	3	6	37	15	33
South Melbourne	19	9	6	4	39	18	33
Altona Magic	18	9	4	5	27	24	31
Heidelberg Utd	18	8	4	6	30	21	28
Green Gully Cavaliers	18	8	4	6	23	20	28
Sunshine Georgies	19	7	7	5	15	15	28
Oakleigh Cannons	18	7	5	6	20	17	26
Richmond	19	7	3	9	27	26	24
Melbourne Knights	18	7	4	7	23	19	22
Preston Lions	19	2	1	16	11	70	7
Whittlesea Zebras	18	1	2	15	10	34	5



ANDREW FISHER'S KISS OF DEATH - Round 20



Oakleigh Cannons v South Melbourne
Jack Edwards Reserve
Fri 31 Jul KO 8:30PM



Fierce rivals Oakleigh and South Melbourne clash at Jack Edwards reserve on Friday night. Oakleigh experienced an unexpected week off after complications with their ground called off the game. South suffered a home loss to Hume on Sunday, and will be looking to make amends against the Cannons. **AWAY WIN**

Last 5 Meetings South 0-0 Oak (2009), South 3-1 Oak (2008), Oak 1-0 South (2008), South 5-2 Oak (2007), Oak 1-1 South (2007).



Altona Magic v Whittlesea Zebras
Paisley Park
Sat 1 Aug KO 5:30PM



Altona will start this match as heavy favourites, and will be looking to secure all three points and push South Melb for second spot. The reigning champions experienced a slow start to the season, but now look to be hitting form at the right end of the season. **HOME WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Whitt 0-1 Alt (2009), Whitt 1-1 Alt (2008), Alt 2-3 Whitt (2008), Alt 1-0 Whitt (2007), Whitt 1-1 Alt (2007).



Richmond Eagles v Heidelberg Utd
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Fri 31 Jul KO 8:30PM



Richmond became the first team to come away from Dandenong with all three points this season. The Eagles have finally captured some of the form that saw them top the table at the start of the season, but unfortunately they are still unlikely to make the final five. Heidelberg has a short turnaround having to playing tonight and again on Friday which could be a major factor for the game. **HOME WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Heid 1-1 Rich (2009), Heid 2-1 Rich (2008 Finals), Rich 2-2 Heid (2008), Heid 1-0 Rich (2008), Rich 2-1 Heid (2007).



Hume City v Green Gully Cavaliers
Broadmeadows Valley Park
Sun 2 Aug KO 3:00PM



Hume's moral boosting win against South Melbourne will give them plenty of confidence coming into this match against the Cavaliers. Green Gully has not dropped a point to Hume, but on current form you wouldn't bet against the home side taking the chocolates in this match. **HOME WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Gully 2-1 Hume (2009), Hume 1-2 Gully (2008), Gully 2-0 Hume (2008), DNP.



Melbourne Knights v Sunshine Georgies
Mansion Stadium
Fri 31 Jul KO 8:30PM



Sunshine farewellled Chaplin Reserve in the worst possible way on Sunday, losing to Preston would have left a sour taste in the mouths of all the forks down at Sunshine, leaving plenty of questions to be answered. They make the short trip to Mansion stadium to take on the Knights who have won two consecutive games at home. **HOME WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Sun 2-1 Knights (2009), Knights 5-0 Sun (2007), Sun 1-1 Knights (2007), Knights 2-1 Sun (2006), Sun 0-2 Knights (2006).



Preston Lions v Dandenong Thunder
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 2 Aug KO 3:00PM



The bookmakers were singing louder than the entire Preston team after punters splurged their hard earned dollars on a Sunshine win only to be denied by a plucky Preston outfit. The Lions did not look anywhere near a team that lost 8-0 a week earlier. Dandenong played very poorly against Richmond on Saturday and the critics couldn't wait to question their title chances. Nothing but a large win hear will satisfy the Thunder supporters, but could Preston cause another upset? **AWAY WIN**

Last 5 Meetings: Dand 4-0 Prest (2009), Dand 1-0 Prest (2001) Prest 1-2 Dand (2001), Prest 3-1 Dand (1999) Dand 4-3 Prest (1999).



VPL RESULTS

Oakleigh Cannons v Altona Magic
(POSTPONED)

Dandenong Thunder 1
(J Di Iorio)
Richmond 2
(M Lujic A Viola)

Sunshine Georgies 0
Preston Lions 1
(B Micovski)

South Melbourne 0
Hume City 1
(Z Petrevski)

Heidelberg United v

Green Gully
Playing tonight at Olympic Village,
KO 8.15pm

Whittlesea Zebras v Melbourne Knights
Playing tonight, Epping Stadium,
KO 8.15pm



TOP SHOTS! errea

Thanks to our friends at Errea the Top Scorer of this season's VPL top scorer will receive a \$500 gift voucher.

- Joseph Di Iorio - Dandenong Thunder 14
- Osagie Ederaro - Heidelberg Utd 13
- Goran Zoric - South Melbourne 10
- Zoran Petrevski - Hume City 10
- Jerry Karpeh - Oakleigh Cannons 8
- Michael Curcija - Altona Magic 6
- Fernando De Moraes - South Melbourne 6
- Gianni De Nittis - South Melbourne 6
- Greg Draper - Melbourne Knights 6
- John Sapazovski - Sunshine Georgies 6



VPL UNDER 21 DETAILS

Oakleigh Cannons Altona Magic (POSTPONED), Dandenong Thunder 2 Richmond 3, Sunshine Georgies 0 Preston Lions 2, South Melbourne 5 Hume City 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Heidelberg Utd	20	12	5	3	37	23	41
South Melbourne	21	12	3	6	40	29	39
Richmond	21	11	4	6	41	29	37
Green Gully Cavaliers	20	11	3	6	29	24	36
V.I.S	20	10	1	9	44	42	31
Melbourne Knights	20	9	2	9	30	30	29
Oakleigh Cannons	20	9	2	9	39	43	29
Sunshine Georgies	20	8	4	8	37	30	28
Preston Lions	21	9	1	11	34	39	28
Altona Magic	19	5	7	7	20	22	22
Whittlesea Zebras	19	5	2	12	28	35	17
Hume City	21	6	2	13	34	47	17
Dandenong Thunder	20	5	2	13	28	48	17



The Victorian Football Show
Every Wednesday C31 8pm



BEST BET



Feel like giving it away after Sunshine losing to Preston. But I'm liking Richmond, Knights and Altona in a three way multi. Remember, bet responsibly.

EAGLES STEAL DANDY'S THUNDER

Richmond Not Out Of The Race Yet!



DANDENONG
THUNDER

1 - 2

RICHMOND
EAGLES



Richmond Eagles became the first visiting team to emerge triumphant from George Andrews reserve this season, scoring an upset 2-1 win over league leader Dandenong Thunder on Saturday evening.

Thunder's last home defeat was way back in the opening round of last season, such is their formidable home record. Saturday's defeat means the team from South Dandenong must wait at least another week before it can claim the minor premiership.

Eagles' striker Milos Lujic and defender Andrew Viola scored early in each half to give the visitors a 2-0 lead before Thunder striker Joe DiIorio pulled a goal back against his former club.

Both sides went into the match without key defenders. Thunder coach Stuart Munro experimented with his defence having lost the services of attacking full backs Jack Hingert (A-League) and Sam Bayley (injured) for the season.

Whilst Richmond were without injured Erhan Karahan and skipper Stuart McLuskey forcing coach Mike Chatzitrifonas to use midfielder Dimi Tsiaras at the centre of a makeshift defence.

Striker Lujic provided an early focal point in attack for the visitors, turning his hesitant opponents early on to create a clear shooting opportunity for himself. However he shot wide of the target.

Three minutes later however, he hit the back of the net from close range after the Thunder defence gave him enough time to take a second touch deep in the box, and pick his mark.

Thunder responded immediately with several shots from distance but they struggled to produce fluency in attack against a compact Eagles unit.

Dandenong's best chance of the half fell to midfielder Aaron Clapham after Richmond keeper Peter Zois overcommitted himself for a corner allowing Clapham to shoot at an exposed goal. However the shot sailed over the bar sparing Zois any blushes.

Thunder coach Munro opted for a four man defence after the break, but it was Eagles who stuck again scoring their second from a corner set piece. The Thunder defence failed to clear the corner and in the ensuing goalmouth scramble, defender Andrew Viola stabbed the ball home.

The league's leading scorer, Thunder striker DiIorio struck with his 14th goal of the season in the 63rd minute giving his team a fighting chance. But the Eagles' defence led by Tsiaras, withstood the waves of Thunder attacks to hold out for a famous 2-1 victory.

Richmond coach, Chatzitrifonas commented after the match, "We needed a lot of things to go right for us tonight. We're very much a depleted squad at the moment so to come here and take the game to them, I mean in the end we held on and they were unlucky a bit, but I just thought the spirit is back, the work ethic was outstanding and we got what we deserved in the end... I'm happy for the boys. We've had a pretty rotten year to be quite frank. A lot has gone wrong for us throughout the whole



Goalscorer Andrew Viola (L) and teammate Nilos Lujic synchronize their leaps in celebration of the Eagles' second.



The Eagles contingent of Enes Sivic, Gary Wales and are all smiles after the unexpected result.

year, so as I said before, this is just desserts for the spirit and the energy they showed tonight. I'm proud of the boys."

Thunder coach Munro remarked afterwards, "We're at the stage where because we've lost our two full backs (Hingert and Bayley), we've got to find a solution for that, and it's whether we continue with a back five or move to a back four, and these are things that we tried out today and it probably upset the balance of the team a little bit... But it's important I find out what's going to be the best team to take into the finals. It wasn't really about just today's game.. But we certainly never played near what we can play. We played far too many mistakes, our decision making was poor at times, but we're still in a very, very strong position to win the minor premiership and go into the finals in top spot."

Lineups:

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, S., Osman, L., Davidson, R. (Thomas, J 61'), Stergiopoulos, M., Rexhepi, S., DiIorio, J., Quirk, C. (Armenian, H. 61'), Hawkin, P., Clapham, A., Ukalovski, D (Bahnsen, N. 45'), Korcrevski, V.

Scorer: DiIorio 62'

Richmond Eagles:

Zois, P., Black, D., Antoniadis, T., Tsiaras, D., Wales, G., Cardozo, R. (Sivic, E 55'), Uskok, T., Catalano, M., Milardovic, T., Lujic, M., Viola, A.

Scorers: Lujic 11', Viola 47'

Man of the Match. D. Tsiaras

HINGERT OFF TO A-LEAGUE

One of the leading Lights of Premier League leader Dandenong Thunder, young defender Jack Hingert, is set to shine on a bigger stage, signing with A-League newcomer North Queensland Fury for the coming season. Hingert who joined Thunder at the start of the season, has become a crowd favourite at George Andrews with his electrifying runs down the right flank, and will be sorely missed as the Thunder prepares for the VPL finals.

Dandenong coach Stuart Munro confirmed that Hingert has played his last game for Thunder after agreeing to terms with Fury. "He could've probably continued with us if he'd only been basically someone for the future but the coach up there reckons that he could be a real possibility of being in the starting 11 for the A-league season which is only two weeks away. So it's a great opportunity for him. He's done ever so well and we wish him all the best."

By George Stogiannou

Photos by George Stogiannou

FERTILIZER FOILS FINALS BIDS

Match Postponed Due To Council Error



OAKLEIGH
CANNONS

P - P

ALTONA
MAGIC



Friday night's Round 19 VPL clash between Oakleigh Cannons v Altona Magic match at Jack Edwards Reserve was postponed due to issues relating to the ground.

Local Council ground keepers inadvertently laid fertilizer on the pitch, unaware that the Cannon's were due to play a home match later that night.

Oakleigh club officials arrived at the ground to prepare for the highly anticipated encounter only to find strange white pigments scattered across the Jack Edwards playing surface.

Once it was ascertained that the composition on the field was of a chemical nature, the decision was made to postpone the match in the best interests of player safety. Aki Ioannas, Cannon General Manager, said "In order to protect the people participating in this match we had to take the safest option. As you know, any fertilizer can be dangerous and could potentially cause inflamed skin conditions and burns and so forth. So, it's an unfortunate situation but we have to be sensible here and not take any risks for anyone."

Both the reserves and seniors matches

will now be rescheduled and played at a later date.

The FFV will most likely set a new date during the week.

Only 5 points separate third and eighth spot and no doubt the non-event will bear effect on the shape of this week's Top Five.

The Magic, sitting on 31 points, were looking to consolidate third position on the ladder with four rounds to go.

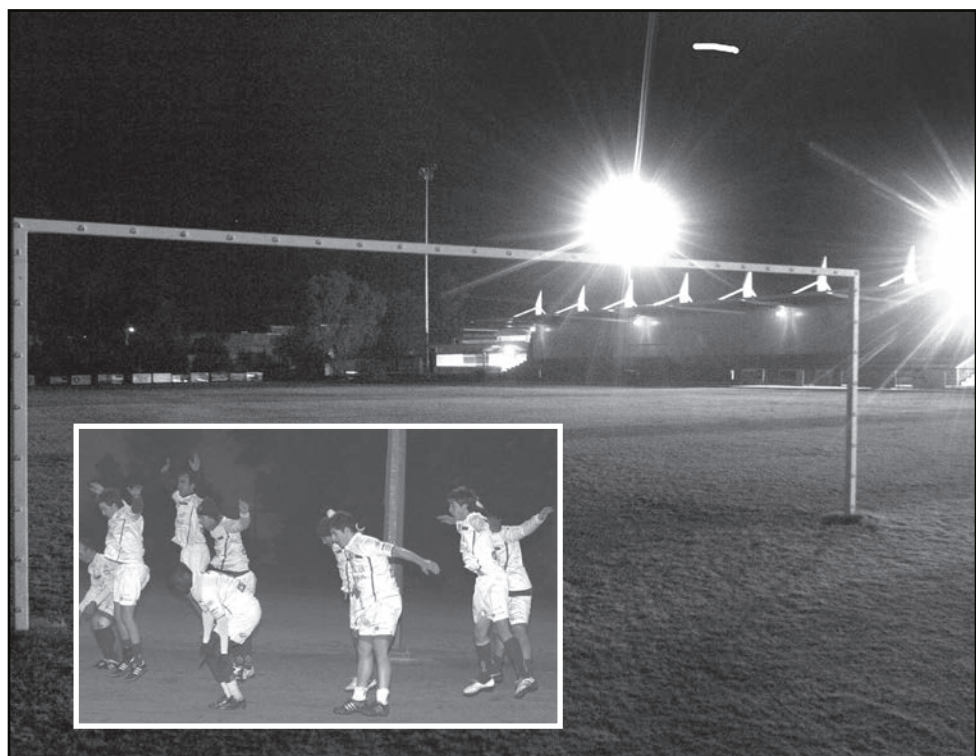
The Cannons hold eighth spot on 26 points, but are just two points outside the Top Five.

THE ROSMANS DELIVER AGAIN!

On a happier note, the Oakleigh Cannons can look forward to strengthening the defence in a few years time after captain Felix Rosman's wife, Kylie, gave birth to a baby boy on Saturday night. The Cannons' board, players, and supporters would like to congratulate the Rosmans on their new arrival, and hope mother and child are doing well. Rosman senior also celebrates his testimonial year after giving ten years service to the club.

By Dom Burton

Photos by John Duggan



The scene at Jack's Place on Friday night, but coach John Anastadiadis still managed to put his troops through their paces with an impromptu training session.

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ZIGGY HITS THE SPOT FOR HUME

Hume Jump South For Second Spot



**SOUTH
MELBOURNE**

0 - 1

**HUME
CITY**



In what has been dubbed as the match of the round, Hume City have snatched a 1-0 win away to South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium.

Hume came to Bob Jane in fine form, knowing that a win against the Blues would see them climb into second position in the table. South also knew that a win would open up a handy 6 point buffer from the chasing pack.

The visitors started the game like a team on a mission and attacked South from the outset, with Tony Sterjovski finding some space just outside the area, before hitting a long range effort into the prying arms of goalkeeper Tommi Tomich.

Tomich once again was in the way of Hume moments later, with the big custodian superbly thwarting the Serkan Ozkuz on two occasions following a world class double save to his left.

South responded moments later when a sublime long range attempt by Goran Zoric was well caught by the experienced Lou Acevski in Hume's goal.

Just before the break, South had a golden chance to open the scoring when a long ball by Tomich bamboozled the stagnant Hume City defence, allowing for the ball to fall into the path of Goran Zoric with only the keeper to beat.

With the diminutive striker open in the area, he unbelievably hit the volley from five metres out well wide of the target.

The second half started in a similar way to the first with both clubs throwing themselves into every challenge knowing the importance of the contest.

Hume had the first golden chance of the half in the 63rd minute, when a sublime first touch by Zoran Petrevski allowed for the former Preston premiership player to hit an audacious volley from long range onto the target. Similar to all previous Hume attempts, the chance was thwarted by the impressive Tomich, who was having a sensational day between the sticks.

With Hume seeming the more likely of the two sides, they continued to push forward and were subsequently rewarded in the 74th



Match winner Zoran Petrevski slides in to tackle Seb Petrovic.



Midfielder battles between Rama Tavsancioglu and Tony Sterjovski.

minute. In this instance Hume City's attacking player Alfonso Opazo appeared to make the most of a soft challenge by Steven O'Dor, after receiving a long ball by Sterjovski just inside the area. Despite that, the referee pointed to the spot to award Hume City with the penalty.

From the resultant spot kick, Petrevski made no mistake, giving the away side a 0-1 advantage with 15 minutes to play.

For that remaining time, South bombarded the Hume City penalty area at every opportunity, with attempts by Vaughan Coveny and Francesco Stella flying wide of the target.

However it was in the 91st minute of play that South had the best chance of the game, when a ball from the left hand side by Sam Torrens fell into the path of the unmarked Gianni De Nittis just inside the area. With the goalkeeper stranded, De Nittis launched a shot inches wide of the target.

With the vital 3 points, Hume jump into 2nd position on table on goal difference ahead of South Melbourne, who drop into 3rd spot.

South must now re-group as it faces a tough derby match against rivals Oakleigh next Friday night at Jack Edwards Reserve, whilst Hume will host Green Gully next Sunday afternoon at Broadmeadows Valley Reserve.

SMFC Starting line-up

Tommi Tomich, Rhodri Payne. Steven O'Dor, Eddie Cetkin. Vaughan Coveny, Joseph Youssef, Francesco Stella, Rama Tavsancioglu, Fernando De Moraes, Goran Zoric, Sebastian Petrovic

Hume City Starting line-up

Lou Acevski, Isyan Erdogan, Serder Pir, Tansel Baser, Ross Thompson, Brendon Beni, Tony Sterjovski, Alfonso Opazo, Caner Ularci, Zoran Petrevski, Serkan Ozkuz

Man of the match – Zoran Petrevski

Crowd - About 2000 at Bob Jane Stadium

By George Kouroumalis

Photo by Peter Kakalias

BLUE THUNDER SECURITY

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MENS & JUNIORS

CHAPLIN GOES OUT SWINGING

Lions Gatecrash The Party With Full Points



SUNSHINE
GEORGIES

0 - 1

PRESTON
LIONS



Sunshine George Cross has farewelled its Chaplin Reserve home in controversial circumstances, going down 1-0 to the relegated Preston Lions.

Everything was on the line for the home side, including a potential top five spot with three weeks remaining, and the frustration of the performance was evident through Sunshine coach Andy O'Dell being ejected from the arena.

A Bale Micovski wonder strike in the 10th minute separated the two sides, and the Lions held on to register their 2nd win for the season.

Sunshine team manager Paul Calleja said it was sad to farewell Sunshine's home of 27 years.

"We've been here since 1982, so that's 27 years. That's a long time to play at one ground. It brings back big memories, and

it's heartbreaking, and probably will shed a few tears when I'm on my own at home," he said.

Calleja was disappointed with his side's start to the match, which it could not recover from.

"I think we didn't play well in the first half to win the game. They played a lot better than us, they deserved the one-nil win because (in the) second half, we just couldn't put the ball in the net, and on the day, I don't think we were good enough."

Calleja said after the sale of Chaplin Reserve, Sunshine would be in a financially positive position.

"Money is going to be a great asset for the club. Instead of being behind, for the first time we're going to be forward money wise."

A new home beckons for the George Cross, and Calleja said a deal was in the



The final goal at Chaplin Reserve put the nail in the coffin for the Georgies.



A good crowd was on hand to witness the final football match to be played at Chaplin Reserve.

process with a State League One club to share their venue.

"(For) the home games, we're talking with Western Suburbs to play there for the next couple of seasons. And that's in the pipe works, and hopefully it eventuates, and next year we'll play there. "The final 90 minutes played on Chaplin Reserve were memorable for all the wrong reasons for Sunshine.

Having conceded early, the Georgies clicked into gear and created several chances from set pieces, and in the 26th minute, Sunshine nearly found the back of the net, but the ensuing scuffle in the box saw the ball cleared to safety for the Lions.

First half injury time saw an all-in brawl develop, after Preston goalkeeper Damir Salcin pushed a Sunshine player to the ground, and was subsequently given a yellow card, much to the spite of the home faithful who were calling for red. O'Dell was visibly furious with the soft penalty to the keeper, and let his frustra-

tions out to the referees in a face-off in the centre of the pitch.

In the 79th minute, O'Dell was sent out of the pitch by the central referee, and had to run to the clubrooms side of the pitch, as his side had little time to spare in their attempts to score.

It came down to the wire in the finish, and Sunshine had one more chance in the 96th minute, but after several small passes on the edge of the box, no shot was fired, and the referee blew the end of Premier League, and any other, football to be played at

Chaplin Reserve.

Venue: Chaplin Reserve (For the last time)

Score Sunshine 0 Preston 1

Scorer B. Micovski (Preston 12 min)

By Luke Sheehan

Photos by Daniel Flis



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KNIGHTS LOOK TO BREAK HOODOO!

Tonight at Epping Stadium, KO 8.30PM



WHITTLESEA
ZEBRAS



MELBOURNE
KNIGHTS



Monday night football at Epping Stadium sees the bottom of the ladder Whittlesea Zebra's host the hot and cold Melbourne Knights.

Whittlesea is guaranteed a bottom two position and under current circumstances would see them relegated to State One.

However there are now rumours coming out of FFV headquarters that the league could be expanding back to fourteen teams, which would seemingly spare the Zebra's of their fate. Ironically the Zebra's were also given a lifeline last season after finishing in the relegation zone, but to be saved by the A.I.S pulling out of the competition.

Both the Zebra's and the Knights have experienced poor seasons. This could be blamed on the large player turnover from last season for both sides. Whittlesea are the lowest scoring side in the competition this season managing only ten goals in eighteen matches, the loss of Jerry Karpel has been a major factor for this.

Melbourne Knights undertook a massive clean out after losing last season's grand final. No less than six first team players left to club to be replaced with promising youngsters.

Although the Knights have been inconsistent, they have shown they are potent when switched on. Twice they have defeated Heidelberg this season, as well as claiming the scalps of Oakleigh and Hume City. Last week's 3-2 win over Heidelberg was one of team's best games of the season, and has kept the team's slim chances of making the finals alive.

Tonight is a must win game for the Knights if they are serious about play-

ing finals, they are in their best form of the season having won two on the trot for the first time this year. However the Knights have not enjoyed their visits to Epping stadium.

The Knights have failed to beat Whittlesea at Epping despite twice being in winning positions. 2005 saw the Knights lose 3-1 in their first season back in the VPL, 2006 saw them go down in a 4-3 classic despite being 2-0 up, 2007 they experienced a 2-1 loss, whilst last season proved the curse was well and truly alive after the Knights let a 3-0 half time lead slip to a 3-3 draw. Earlier this season the Zebras were able to frustrate the Knights' and claim a 1-1 draw at Mansion stadium.

The Knights' will be without influential captain Craig Elvin for this match after his red card last week, with Alex Kiratzoglou his most likely replacement.

Whittlesea pushed league leaders Dandenong all the way last week, and were unlucky to go down 3-2. Former Knight Stefan Piorkowski was on the scoresheet, and will be a major threat to his former side.

There have usually been plenty of goals when these two teams match up, and tonight should be no different. Despite their positions on the ladder, both sides have plenty of quality players who can break this game open. The Knight's in the current form should be too strong, but never write off the Zebra's.

By Andrew Fisher

Photos by Steve Starek



Knights fans will hope Josh Groenewald continues his good form of late and maintain the club's Finals push.

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TOP FIVE SPOT UP FOR GRABS

Tonight at Olympic Village, KO 8.30PM



HEIDELBERG
UNITED

V

GREEN GULLY
CAVALIERS



Heidelberg United takes on Green Gully at the Olympic Village tonight (Monday, July 27) at 8:30pm. The final result could prove pivotal in the respective teams' fortunes in the VPL this season.

Coming into this evening's fixture, both sides sit on 28 points from 18 matches, with Heidelberg holding onto fifth spot from both Green Gully (sixth) and Sunshine Georgies (seventh after 19 matches) only on goal difference. A win to either side will see them take fourth spot on the table from Altona Magic, whose Round 19 match versus Oakleigh was postponed.

Recent weeks has seen the form of both these VPL heavyweights suffer from inconsistency. Heidelberg go into the game having lost away 3-2 to Melbourne Knights last week, whilst Green Gully held South Melbourne to a 1-1 draw away from home.

Recent results between the sides have gone the way of the 'Bergers, with Hockless & Ederaro scoring for Heidelberg in their 2-0 win over Green Gully in Bendigo earlier this season. However, the home side may well be missing their midfield dynamo Hockless, who has missed the last three games with a leg injury. Of perhaps

greater concern for the Heidelberg hierarchy would be the fact that the defence has leaked 3 goals in two of the team's last three games, a trend they would no doubt be keen to reverse.

Green Gully, the perennial VPL finalist, will be looking to its experienced line-up to reverse the recent trend of results against Heidelberg as it looks to consolidate its position under coach Peter Ollerton.

Both clubs feature strong goalkeepers with Heidelberg's Peter Gavalas an up and coming prospect matched up against one of the VPL's premier 'keepers in Steven Tilovski.

The midfield battle looms crucial, as always, to the final outcome. Both sides have the firepower up front to cause opposition defenders no shortage of headaches, so the supply line from the centre of the park will be vital to either side's chances.

In a tight battle, it may be the home pitch advantage which may well tilt the ledger towards a Heidelberg win by a single goal. The main game kicks off at 8:30pm with the U/21's due to kick-off at 6:30pm.

By John Fotinos

Photos by Steve Starek



Gully custodian Steve Tilovski will have to be on his toes tonight to keep Gully's VPL Finals aspirations alive against The Warriors.

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POWER STRUGGLES AT THE TOP OF THE WPL

Comets On Cloud Nine After Grabbing Top Spot

Round 14 of the Women's Premier League has done nothing to ease the congestion at the top of the ladder, with three teams, Casey Comets, Heidelberg United and South Melbourne, locked together on 25 points and separated only by goal difference.

At the time of writing Box Hill Inter is a point further back, but it had a game to play on Monday night that may have enabled it to reclaim top spot. Round 14 produced victories for Casey, South and Ashburton, while Preston had the bye.

Casey Comets jumped to the top of a congested ladder with a comprehensive 9-1 victory over GRFA at Comets Stadium. The home side destroyed the regional team with a four goal burst in the opening ten minutes, creating an unassailable lead in the early stages of the game. Nicola Prins scored after just two minutes, with Marcelina Alegria doubling the score two minutes later, and Alexandra Gummer scoring twice in quick succession. Talia Silivestros added a fifth ten minutes before the interval, with Gummer completing a first-half hat-trick shortly after. The Comets slowed the scoring pace in the second half, but still found time to add a further three goals, through Lana Bonnet, Melissa Atherton and Gabrielle Lee. Gabbriella Mazza scored a consolation goal for GRFA twelve minutes from time. GRFA remain fixed to the bottom of the ladder, while Casey climb to the top, albeit potentially only for 24 hours. The significant boost in goal difference this result has given Casey has enabled it to take top spot, given that it is level on points with both Heidelberg and South Melbourne.

South Melbourne survived a surprise scare from struggling Bendigo Vipers, eventually emerging 5-4 victor in a thrilling match. Laura Spiranovic opened the scoring for the home side after twenty-five minutes, but Bendigo pulled level just after the half hour. That set the tone for the rest of the match, with South getting on top, without ever really being able to shake Bendigo off completely. 1-1 at half time, the second half exploded into an end to end contest with plenty of goals. South took the lead twice more, only to be pegged back by Bendigo each time. It was only when South pulled ahead 4-3, and then 5-3 with less than five minutes remaining that the points looked secure. Even so, there was still time for Bendigo to score again, making for a nervous last few seconds for the home side. Spiranovic continued her goal-scoring into the second half, with a hat-trick after the interval to add to her first half strike, with Aimee Benton on



An ecstatic Stacey Louras celebrates her goal, Ashburton's second, just after half-time.

target from the penalty spot. Paige Connor, Haley Rickard, Lyn West and Jacklyn Lombardozi all scored for Bendigo. The result keeps South firmly in the mix for the finals, equal on points with Heidelberg and Casey, but third due to its inferior goal difference. Bendigo remains eighth.

Ashburton kept its chances of playing finals alive with a strong 3-1 win over Heidelberg

United at Ashburton Park. The home side did the damage in a four minute period that straddled the break, with Annabelle Gibney scoring two minutes before the interval, and Stacey Louras doubling the advantage two minutes into the second half. Seyma Erenli then made the game safe with fifteen minutes remaining. Christina Cisternino pulled a goal back for Heidelberg shortly before time, but it was too little too late for the visiting team. As a result, United relinquishes its position at the top of the ladder, and drops to second on goal difference. Ashburton is fifth, three points behind fourth-placed Box Hill Inter.

Box Hill Inter and Sandringham played off on Monday night, in a match that could go a long way to determining whether Sandringham are still an outside chance of making the finals. Defeat for Sandringham would almost certainly mean the end of its hopes, while a third consecutive loss for Inter could leave it a chance of missing out on the finals for the first time in WPL history.

Round 15 of the WPL begins on Friday night at Wembley Park, with another big finals related game. Box Hill Inter hosts Ashburton, and with Ashburton having defeated two top-four opponents in the last two weeks, it will fancy its chances against the reigning premier. The remaining three matches all take place on Sunday, with Heidelberg United looking to return to winning ways when it hosts Preston Lions at Olympic Village, while the top of the table clash at Bob Jane Stadium features South Melbourne and Casey Comets. GRFA return home to Howard Glover Reserve, and it is visited by Sandringham.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Casey Comets	12	8	1	3	38	13	25
Heidelberg Utd	12	8	1	3	27	15	25
South Melb	13	8	1	4	34	24	25
Box Hill Inter	11	8	0	3	37	13	24
Ashburton	12	6	3	3	32	15	21
Sandringham	11	6	0	5	22	15	18
Preston Lions	12	2	4	6	16	34	10
Bendigo Vipers	12	1	2	9	10	35	5
GRFA	13	1	0	12	11	63	3

WPL RESULTS

Casey Comets 9 (M Atherton M Alegria T Silivestros A Gummer 3 G Lee NJ Prins L Bonnet)
GRFA 1 (G Mazza),

South Melbourne 5 (A Benton L Spiranovic 4)

Bendigo Vipers 4 (P Conder L West J Lombardozi H Rickard),

Ashburton 3 (S Louras S Erenli A Gibney)

Heidelberg Utd 1 (C Cisternino)

WPL ROUND 15

Box Hill Inter v Ashburton

Wembley Park
Fri 31 Jul KO 8:30PM

Heidelberg Utd v Preston Lions

Olympic Park (Village)
Sun 2 Aug KO 1:00PM

Bye v Bendigo Vipers

South Melbourne v Casey Comets

Albert Park Field 13
Sun 2 Aug KO 1:00PM

GRFA v Sandringham

Howard Glover Reserve
Sun 2 Aug KO 3:00PM

RESERVES

Casey Comets 6 GRFA 0, South Melbourne 1 Bendigo Vipers 3, Ashburton 4 Heidelberg Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sandringham	11	10	1	0	53	5	31
Ashburton	12	8	1	3	37	11	25
Box Hill Inter	11	7	1	3	31	16	22
South Melb	13	7	1	5	30	26	22
Casey Comets	12	6	1	5	25	14	19
Heidelberg Utd	12	4	2	6	18	25	14
Bendigo Vipers	12	4	2	6	20	39	14
Preston Lions	12	2	1	9	9	31	7
GRFA	13	1	0	12	4	60	3



Jolene Miller (Heidelberg) gets the better of this bunting duel with Cindy Dussoye (Ashburton).

By Niki Cook

Photos by John Punshon

GW MAIL

Want to get something off your chest?



mailbag@goalweekly.com

Dear Goal! Weekly,

I was reading today, the FFV's 2009 selection criteria for representative teams. The FFV announced that players for representative teams will be selected only from the Summer League competition. My Question is, What about the rest of the Victorian Players who don't play in the Summer League?

This situation, solely created by the Football federation of Victoria to promote their newly created Summer League, is alarming and disappointing for many elite junior players in the state who train or play in other competitions during the year.

The issue is that while some junior players take part in the Summer League, there are also other elite players, who are training with other football programs and playing in other competitions during the winter and summer months.

On this instance the federation has chosen not to give all players available in Victoria, the opportunity to represent the state.

They decided not to set trial dates for players who haven't played during the summer in the federation's newly created Summer League.

It's not a secret that Victorian players have now more opportunities in football than ever before, and while this is great and generally encouraging for the sport, our state body has decided to close the doors to some players, for not conforming to play in the Summer League.

There are now days other comprehensive programs available, which offer alternative football career pathways for Victorian players than the traditional System created by the State and National body, but this doesn't mean that players, who are training elsewhere, are not interested in being part of the representative system or play for Australia if given the opportunity.

Many players aren't interested in the summer league, because the system is obsolete in today's modern football standards; it doesn't offer a program that lines up with the best practices in the world.

For Example, the players in the Summer League are only required to train twice a week and play a game on the weekend and while this suits some players and parents who don't want players training everyday or driving everyday to training, there are players out there training full time with other programs.

In other words, players who are training full time with a club, an academy, or a specialised school, have to move to a lesser program to qualify to play for their State or combine the two programs by training with different coaches and methods during the week, which in today's elite player development standard, it is not an ideal situation.

Many of our junior players have their eyes set in a professional career in Australia or in overseas, and they know that the window of opportunity is very small, and they rather train full

time to perfect their skills or improve their fitness during summer months, than to play in a summer league.

For example, clubs and academies in Europe don't allow their junior players to disappear of their radar for six months to play for the association's county teams.

Players are only released by their clubs for trials and to represent their country but clubs would not even consider letting these players to train with other clubs or coaches for such an extensive period of time, during the development years. These players are too valuable to warrant the risk.

I acknowledge that most junior clubs in Australia still don't have a formal junior development program in place as these clubs in Europe have, but there are some clubs, academies and management organisations, who are becoming very serious about developing their players and feel uncomfortable releasing their best talent for such a long period of time.

The FFV is still promoting that the only career pathways in football are the State Teams, the VIS and the AIS or the A League clubs within Australia. I have always been supportive of players training and developing within Australia, but we can't deny that our football junior standard needs improvement. The Standard of football played in the 2008/09 Summer League was poor despite of being a representative regional competition.

Those players would benefit much more if they get involved in full time training like all serious junior players in overseas do.

To think that by training twice a week and playing in a Summer League will be enough to compete with thousands of players of the leading overseas football clubs is unrealistic.

There are an increasing number of players in Victoria who are training with up to three different coaches during the week to create their own full time junior program and thanks god there are still some academies and private coaches operating in Victoria in such difficult environment and circumstances.

Most Victorian players and current Socceroos, who landed contracts in overseas clubs have attended also Academies in overseas and several other private skill programs in Australia as well as played for the State teams and the VIS etc.

Many of the current Socceroos left the country to train with clubs in overseas when they were as young as 13 years of age(under the old FIFA rules) many gamble with their life's, some fulfilled their dreams and some made a lot of money along the way, others flopped but I suppose that's life.

So where does this attitude "if a player doesn't play in the summer league, won't be able to play for Victoria, fits in or come from?"

It is a pure bureaucratic nonsense, to restrict a player from playing for the state or country because is not available to play the summer League is like not letting a player play in the FIFA World Cup finals because he/she was not available to play in the qualifying matches.

The FIFA's protection of minor rules has put a stop to young talented players wishing to leave the country to play for foreign clubs before reaching majority of age. Even if the family is moving overseas, Football Federation Australia has the right to deny the International Clearance Certificate, if there are any suspicions that the parents are moving overseas for football reasons, but this doesn't mean that players can't go to train in overseas clubs for a period of time, to speed up their development, specially when the best system to develop players in Victoria is the

Summer League!!! Please...

The VIS can only accommodate 25 scholarships and some academies may have some small numbers of scholarships available. This is not enough to match the best nations in the world.

The River Plate football Academy has full time training available to all players from the age of under 13's onwards, and we are doing our bit to contribute to Australian Football. I am sure there are others out there trying as well...

If players are fortunate and get to play A League and move to an overseas market at a later date, junior clubs who developed these players in Australia with the assistance of FFV or an Academy or whoever still are going to be financially rewarded and put substantial money into the system with subsequent transfers. So what is the real problem?

There isn't one, really. Other than control seeking policies, but in this case some hard working young players with a dream to play football at the highest level, may be denied of an opportunity to play for their State or Country because of a Federation's agenda and the reluctance to deal with today's football reality and its complexity.

It should be an equal ground for all quality players in Victoria to trail and represent the State or Country regardless whether he plays Summer League, Winter League, for an inter-academies League, Churches league or in his own backyard. If the player is good enough and is registered with FFV, it should be given the opportunity.

The universal understanding is that the State representative teams should be represented by the best players in the state, and there should be several avenues for all players to attend trials. This new System is sending all the wrong messages to the Victorian Junior football community.

The development of Victoria's young football players is not a political game. It is to be played by the State's best players on a football field, who must learn to battle for selection amongst the best players from every league, club/ Academy, competition, or any organisation, and as long as the player is affiliated to FFV, It should have the right to represent the state.

Another situation often overlooked is the social repercussions of these policies on the young players.

Players know each other, many of them are good friends, they meet in winter competitions, they go to the same school, they talk in msm, my space etc, and they know who the best players are.

The Victorian football community is very small, and these inconsistencies created by administrators are not overlooked by young players and parents, who end up losing respect and faith in the system.

This selection policy is unsustainable, and many parents, clubs and players are unhappy and they are turning the backs to the State system. From the clubs view point, and after talking to a number of leading coaches, there were obvious signs of discontent and disbelief about this ruling.

In general, players want to play football and parents want to see their children happy playing a sport, nobody wants to be placed in the predicament whether to abandon one program for another or move clubs to play in a certain region in order to represent the state.

The possible consequences are:

Our State teams will always be under-strength Some players will never represent Victoria or possibly Australia, if FFV continues to embrace this policy.

Players, parents and clubs, will look for other options and pathways for their players, which are less political and focuses on the real formula for success: hard work, dedication and good management.

Personally, I have no doubts that brains behind the summer league concept and the state selection process, had the best intentions in principle but the program lacks of a depth, resources and vision.

You are not going to have better players in the A League or in the National teams by closing doors or denying opportunities.

FFV should allow all players to trial and then pick the best players for the state as they have always done it in the past.

I ask the FFV to open again the window of opportunities for all Victorian players to represent the state, whether they play summer, winter, churches or any other competition going around. It is sad to see, that unless some adjustments are made within the system, this situation has the potential to divide junior football in Victoria.

We all will be better off, if the FFV would tackle to real issues confronting our clubs and sport today, instead of coming up with rules which restrict participation and upsets the most vulnerable, who in this case are our junior players.

We all should be pulling the same way when it comes to State teams and Australian teams. There is no argument when it comes to play for your State or country, but players are entitled take different avenues in their quest to get there. Players and family's choice should be respected not forced.

The football community will be very proud if the FFV decides to get out there and tackle the big issues on behalf of all the clubs.

For example: Make the government and councils realise that it has been a trend change in sport participation and many soccer clubs are struggling to deal with the constant growth. We are turning kids away. Our grounds and facilities are insufficient, and many Aussie rules clubs and cricket clubs don't use their grounds and facilities enough.

We are more dedicated that other football codes. Many of our players want to train everyday and all year round and it is a shame that our players and clubs have to pay up to \$120 dollars an hour to hire football facilities.

We are keen and we want to make Australia one of the best football nations in the world. We need as a nation to improve children's fitness, dietary deficiencies and body image; we can't afford to restrict participation under a circumstance.

We need the FFV to come up with something more inspiring than creating rules that may potentially create problems and resentment within our junior football community.

We should be spending energy in making our football the number one football code in the country, and developing more and better footballers rather than getting petty by inventing obstacles.

To create trials for players, who don't wish to play or can't attend Summer League, is not that difficult task. FFV will hit the right note if they do, as there are still large number exciting players out there. The current system won't bring the State's best players knocking to the FFV's front door. That is for sure.

Daniel Santomil
River Plate Football Academy Australia,
Director

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With Mark Boric

BOO'S WORLD



I would have thought Adelaide United's Robbie Cornthwaite would have been immune to Swine Flu, with him being a donkey and all. It's been a rough few years for him medically, probably suffering during the Equine Influenza outbreak of 2007 as well.

Melbourne Victory continue to play friendlies against VPL teams behind closed doors, last week drawing 1-1 with Green Gully at Olympic Park. Pablo Cardozo scored for the Gully, and you'd reckon he'd have put a few more goals away against A-League clubs had any of them signed him up on even a short-term contract. I could have seen him scoring more than other former Socceroos like Paul Agostino and John Aloisi did.

Hooliganism is presently running rampant, hence the closed door Victory friendlies. It has even spread to school football, with the AGSV finals at the Veneto Club last week seeing a flare launched onto the newly-laid artificial pitch, causing some minor burnt plastic. Where will it all end?

Which will be the first Under 10 Small Sided Game to see such rowdy behaviour?

Chaos at Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night with fans turned away when the game was postponed late in the day following a council groundstaff debacle. The pitch was fertilised on match day, which could not be watered in due to water restrictions, leaving the ground unsafe for play. As the old gag goes, shouldn't the pitch have already been fertilised with all the crap they've been putting on the park lately?

If this is Katsa's last column of the year, does that mean I'm going to have to write more? Or am I able to just use a larger font size? Using a larger picture each week should also be considered an option. Should I get myself a bottle of J Walker and a pack of W N Fields and impersonate him for a paragraph each week? If I can't use any of these short cuts, I'll be heading for the West Gate Bridge.

Onto the Shane Rexhepi Football Focus. This week it's favourite teams, which are Arsenal and Melbourne Victory. If there is



Spurs' Jermaine Jemas scores against Shane Rexhepi's favourite team, Arsenal.

one bad thing I can say about Shane Rexhepi, it's going to be related to supporting Arsenal. I really hate the French.

Katsa's Coach Toll

Last Year	This Year
6 - 19	4 - 19
Outs - Weeks	Outs - Weeks

KOREA DRAWS BLANKS AGAINST YOUNG MATILDAS

Australia's U-19 Women's team, the Westfield Young Matildas, have played out a 0-0 draw in the first of two friendly matches against the Korean Republic.

The warm and humid playing conditions were ideal preparation for the Westfield Young Matildas who are preparing to compete in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Women's Championships 2009.

Australia started the match the stronger side but the Korea Republic became more threatening around the 25th minute.

Shortly after came the first attempt on goal when Courtney Beutel won the ball, carried it down the field with a nice low cross in front to Tameka Butt who just put it over the cross bar.

Korea Republic's attempt on goal in the 66th minute was saved in tremendous fashion by Casey Dumont. The low shot by the Korean attacker was on target and a certain goal but Dumont dived right and touched the ball onto the right post which was then cleared by the Australian defence.

The 68th minute saw an injury to Beutel which had the match delayed for around 25 minutes. Beutel took a knock to the head which left her with concussion. Staff were concerned about a possible neck injury and she was taken to hospital for diagnosis and a precautionary scan. Beutel was later cleared by doctors and discharged.

Late in the match Australia's Marianna Tabain had a great long range shot on goal which easily beat the Korean keeper but found the crossbar. The full time whistle blew after approximately 115 minutes (including injury time) with both sides goalless.

"This was a pleasing result for us. We put on a solid performance against a very well

organised and highly technical Korean side," said Head Coach Alen Stajcic.

"We created a few good opportunities to score and defended well for the most part, especially with some players in new roles, such as Emily van Egmond and Marianna Tabain in particular.

"I feel we did well overall. Korea Republic are a good team and good opposition for us.

"It has been great preparation for next week's Championships and we look forward to another hit-out on Monday," Stajcic said.

The Westfield Young Matildas meet Korea Republic again on Monday before heading to China for the AFC U-19 Women's Championships 2009. Australia meets Japan, China and Chinese Taipei in the group stage of the Championships which also serves as the qualifying championship for next year's FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup.

U-19 Women

Korea Republic, 0 - Australia, 0
KFA National Training Centre, Seoul, South Korea

Australia line-up: Casey DUMONT (gk), Marianna TABAIN, Emily VAN EGMOND, Jessica SEAMAN (Rebecca KITING 68'), Elise KELLOND-KNIGHT, Teresa POLIAS, Kyah SIMON, Tameka BUTT (Ella MASTRANTONIO 68'), Teigan ALLEN, Gema SIMON (Nicole SYKES 46'), Courtney BEUTEL (Ruth BLACKBURN 68')

Yellow cards: Kyah Simon 40', Courtney Beutel 41'

Red cards: Nil

OPTUS RINGS UP A BOOST FOR GRASSROOTS

In an exciting boost for grassroots football, Optus and Football Federation Australia (FFA) are delivering special football kits to over 50,000 young football players in regional and urban areas around Australia as part of the latest Optus Small-Sided Football (OSSF) program.

All under 6 registered OSSF players across the country will receive a football kit, which includes a t-shirt, football and backpack. Their local club will also receive some much needed equipment and resource materials.

OSSF is football for children, played on smaller fields, with fewer players on a team and with an emphasis on having fun through playing football. OSSF maximises participation for all players and is an important component of FFA's commitment to building for the future.

"For more than a decade football has had the highest participation rates of any sport for boys aged 5 -14. It is also the fastest growing team sport for girls. We are thrilled, that together with Optus, we are able to support grassroots football in a practical way," FFA Chief Commercial Officer, John O'Sullivan said.

"Communication and teamwork is essential to winning any football game and plays a crucial role in Optus' business of connecting people," Michael Smith, Managing Director, Optus Consumer said.

"As part of being the Official Telecommunications Partner of FFA, Optus is the exclusive partner to the Optus Small-Sided Football program, providing valuable football supplies for thousands of young football players in the cities and regional areas around Australia.

"Optus invests in towns and communities, ensuring that customers have easy access to

the latest and greatest products and importantly we continue to bring competition.

"Now with the unique and fresh approach of Optus Small-Sided Football, we are keen to support this important program and encourage even greater participation in the game," Mr Smith said.

Lucas Neill, Optus Football Ambassador and proud supporter of Optus Small-Sided Football said, "Local clubs play a vital step in developing football skills and fitness and opening up opportunities. I am delighted to be part of the Optus team as a football ambassador and support the work they are doing for football community development."

With the start of the Hyundai A-League 2009/10 season approaching, players from the nine Australian clubs will be visiting OSSF clubs in their local area, in support of the initiative.

For more information regarding OSSF visit: www.smallsidedfootball.com.au





The Victorian Football Show
Every Wednesday C31
8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday C31
10.30am

3:00Football Asia
Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia. (Sport)

3:30UEFA U-19 Championship Semi Finals

4:30The World Game

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 27th July

4:55am CONCACAF Gold Cup Final
Teams TBC LIVE

Tuesday 28th July

4:40am Pre-Season Friendly Teams TBC
LIVE
12:30pm Bobby Robson 1990 Legends
Match England vs Germany

Wednesday 29th July

4:40am Pre-Season Friendly Teams TBC
LIVE

Thursday 30th July

4:40am Pre-Season Friendly Teams TBC
LIVE



Got something to say about a weekend football match you've just been to?
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any football related
matters.

FOOTBALL QUOTES - Ron Atkinson Special

'Huddersfield will want to win this one.'

isn't there'

'That was Pele's strength - holding people off with his arm.'

'For me their biggest threat is when they get into the attacking part of the field.'

'Stoichkov's playing on the wing, in this situation he likes to come in and scalp the centre-half.'

'If you score against the Italians you deserve a goal'

'[He's] the equivalent of the Spanish David Beckham.'

'He'll take some pleasure from that, Brian Carey. He and Steve Bull have been having it off all afternoon.'

'A ten-foot keeper really should have stopped that'

'There's a little triangle - five left-footed players.'

'I tell you what, if the Cameroons get a goal back here they're literally gonna catch on fire.'

'Well, Clive, it's all about the two Ms - movement and positioning.'

'He must be lightning slow'

'There's a snap about Liverpool that just



THIS WEEK...

Monday 27 July

* Copa Ciudad de Rosario: USA v Qantas Young Socceroos, Rosario, Argentina (Kick-off 4:00 pm local, 5:00am AEST)
* International Friendly: Westfield Young Matildas v Korea Republic, KFA National Training Centre, Seoul, Korea Republic (Kick off 7.00pm local, 8.00pm AEST)

Wednesday 29 July

* Pre-Season Friendly: Brisbane Roar v Rochdale Rovers, Underwood Park, Rochdale (Kick-off 7:15pm AEST)
* Copa Ciudad de Rosario: Australia v C.A. Tiro Federal, Rosario, Argentina (Kick-off 7:00 pm local, 8:00am AEST)

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WAG OF THE WEEK



Adriana Sklenarikova Age: 36

Insignificant other: French 1998 World Cup Winner, Christian Karembeu

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\$70

CANER UCARLI

HUME CITYFC

FULL NAME: Caner Ucarli
BIRTHPLACE: Turkey
BIRTH DATE: 23/12/89
HEIGHT: 178
WEIGHT: 76
MARRIED: No
CAR: Subaru
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Professional Bum
NICKNAME: Jackie Chan!!
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Preston Lions
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: None
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Hakan Sukur
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Cristiano Ronaldo
FAVOURITE VPL PLAYER: Tansel Baser
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: None
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Scoring on my first VPL appearance
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Galatasaray Vs Samsunspor.
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Under 15's 40 yard bomber!
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Turkey coming 3rd in the 2002 World Cup
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Ziggy Petrevski stirring every ones mrs
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None
WORST INJURY: Bone bruising
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Isyan Erdogan
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: Same underwear every game
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: what ever my mum puts in front of me
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Too many to name
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Don't know
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Galatasaray
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: AFL
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Mike Tyson
FAVOURITE FOODS: Mums cooking, Nandos, Hacı's kebab, sushi.
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Jenna Jameson
HOBBIES: Riding my motorbike
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Greek Islands
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: CQ, Motel.
IDEAL DATE: My Girlfriend
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Simpsons
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Whatever I'm in the mood for.
FAVOURITE FILM: Fast & Furious 4
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Can't remember
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: None
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Mum and uncle
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Pre-season & injury's
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Play in Europe
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Cristiano Ronaldo
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Hume City!!



Photo by Bobby

goal!
 Weekly
FOOTBALL FOCUS



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PREPARING FOR THE REAL DEAL

Adam Mark Takes A Look At How The A-League Clubs Are Shaping Up

The Hyundai A-League 2009/10 season is just 10 days away and all ten clubs are in the final stages of their preparation for the opening round. Without a formal Pre-Season Cup competition this year, the Hyundai A-League clubs have been very creative with their choice of opposition for friendly matches ranging from the local state league through to English Premier League teams. All clubs have used the pre-season to trial players, formations and tactics with their early form pointing to an extremely exciting Hyundai A-League season ahead.



Adelaide United

Head Coach Aurelio Vidmar has had the luxury of a longer pre-season campaign than the previous two years. Vidmar has saved his two most interesting signings for last with the addition of former Ghanaian international striker Lloyd Owusu from Cheltenham Town and Korean midfielder Inseob Shin from Kunkuk University. Owusu definitely has an eye for goal scoring 92 goals during his 11 year period in the English Championship, League One and League Two competitions. Twenty year-old Shin, as he prefers to be known as, impressed the Adelaide United coaching staff after a two-week trial and definitely looks to be a player to watch this season. Vidmar also signed local boys Joe Costa and Francesco Monterosso following their performances in last season's National Youth League. Adelaide United's pre-season match schedule has focused mainly on local state league clubs and the South Australian representative team as well as fixtures against Perth Glory at home, North Queensland Fury in Darwin and their traditional pre-season match against Melbourne Victory in Launceston, Tasmania this weekend.

Current Squad: Alemao, Fabian BARBIERO, Mark BIRGHITTI (gk), Cassio, Robert CORNTHWAITE, Joe COSTA, Cristiano, Travis DODD (c), Iain FYFE, Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), Adam HUGHES, Scott JAMIESON, Michael MARRONE, Francesco MONTEROSSO, Daniel MULLEN, Lloyd OWUSU, Lucas PANTELIS, Paul REID, Kristian SARKIES and Inseob SHIN.

Re-signed: Daniel Mullen (2 years)

In: Joe Costa (Adelaide United NYL, 2 years), Iain Fyfe (Sydney FC - 1 year), Adam Hughes (Drogheda United, Ireland - 2 years), Inseob Shin (Kunkuk University, Korea Republic - 2 years), Michael Marrone (Adelaide United NYL - 1 year), Francesco Monterosso (Adelaide United NYL, 2 years), Lloyd Owusu (Cheltenham Town, England - 2 years).

Out: Paul Agostino (retired), Daniel Beltrame (retired), Angelo Costanzo (released), Diego (released), Ihsan Erdogan (released), Sasa Ogrenovski (Seongnam Ilhwa, Korea Republic), Jonas Salley (re-

leased), Jason Spagnuolo (North Queensland Fury), Michael Valkanis (retired), Robert Younis (released)



The Brisbane Roar

embarked on their annual pre-season "Roar Roadshow" with Head Coach Frank Farina scheduling 11 fixtures in the lead-up to their opening match blockbuster against local rivals Gold Coast United on Saturday 8 August at Suncorp Stadium. Although the majority of the Roar's opposition has been local Brisbane state league clubs at suburban venues, their biggest test was against Scottish Premier League powerhouse club Celtic FC in the annual Translink Cup. Unfortunately for the Roar they were defeated 0-3, but took many positives out of the match including the memory of an electric stadium atmosphere generated from the 31,340 fans in attendance.

Current Squad: Isaka CERNAK, Luke DEVERE, David DODD, Henrique, Josh McCLOUGHAN, Matt McKAY, Griffin McMASTER (gk), Charlie MILLER, Craig MOORE (c), Matt MUNDY, Massimo MURDOCCA, Mitch NICHOLS, Tommy OAR, Andrew PACKER, Liam REDDY (gk), Reinaldo, Adam SAROTA, Timothy SMITS, Danny TIATTO, Sergio VAN DIJK and Michael ZULLO.

Re-signed: Craig Moore (1 year), Matt McKay (2 years), Massimo Murdocca (2 years), Mitch Nichols (2 years), Andrew Packer (2 Years), Danny Tiatto (1 year), Michael Zullo (2 years).

In: Henrique (Formiga, Brazil - 1 year), Matt Mundy (Brisbane Roar NYL - 2 years), Adam Sarota (Brisbane Roar NYL - 3 years).

Out: Chris Grossman (North Queensland Fury), Tahj Minniecon (Gold Coast United), Hyuk-Su Seo (released), Ben Griffin (released).



After participating in their first AFC Champions League campaign, the Central Coast Mariners took a well deserved break and then re-grouped at the start of June to focus on

the season ahead. Lawrie McKinna has added English defender Chris Doig and promoted National Youth League player Matthew Lewis to his squad and released Andre Gumprecht, Paul O'Grady and Greg Owens. The Mariners have been undefeated in their six pre-season fixtures to date, a statistic that McKinna hopes his team can take into and continue throughout the season proper.

Current Squad: Pedj BOJIC, Nigel

BOOGAARD, Adrian CACERES, Andrew CLARK, David D'APUZZO, Chris DOIG, Ahmad ELRICH, Dean HEFFERNAN, Shane HUKU, John HUTCHINSON, Adam KWASNIK, Matthew LEWIS, Dylan MACALLISTER, Nik MRDJA, Bradley PORTER, Andrew REDMAYNE (gk), Matt SIMON, Danny VUKOVIC (gk) and Alex WILKINSON (c).

Re-signed: Andrew Clark (1 year), Andrew Redmayne (2 years)

In: Chris Doig (Northampton Town, England - 2 years), Shane Huke (Dagenham & Redbridge, England - 1 year), Adam Kwasnik (Wellington Phoenix - 2 years), Matthew Lewis (Central Coast Mariners NYL - 1 year).

Out: Andre Gumprecht (released), Mile Jedinak (Genclerbirliigi, Turkey), Matthew Osman (Gold Coast United), Sasho Petrovski (Newcastle Jets), Paul O'Grady (released), Greg Owens (released), Nick Rizzo (released).



Gold Coast

United have completed their Hyundai A-League player roster with the recent signing of nineteen year-old Ivorian defender Adama Traore. Traore appeared on Miron Bleiberg's radar via some DVD's that landed on his desk and after a short trial period was promptly offered a contract. Gold Coast United has traveled extensively during the pre-season with fixtures played in New Caledonia, Singapore and Hong Kong. Like the Mariners, Gold Coast United has been undefeated in their seven pre-season matches to date. The most impressive result being their 2-1 win over English Premier League Club Fulham FC.

Current Squad: Andrew BARISIC, James BROWN, Zenon CARAVELLA, Jason CULINA (c), Steve FITZSIMMONS, Richard GREER, Adam GRIFFITHS, Scott HIGGINS (gk), Jefferson, Milson, Tahj MINNIECON, Matt OSMAN, Steve PANTELIDIS, Daniel PIORKOWSKI, Joel PORTER, Kristian REES, Robson, Shane SMELTZ, Michael THWAITE, Adama TRAORE, Bas VAN DEN BRINK and Jess VAN STRATTAN (gk).

In: Andrew Barisic (Melbourne Knights, Australia - 1 year), James Brown (AIS, Australia - 3 years), Zenon Caravella (FC Omniworld, Netherlands - 2 years), Jason Culina (PSV Eindhoven, Netherlands - 3 Years), Steve Fitzsimmons (Beenleigh, Australia - 1 year), Richard Greer (AIS, Australia - 1 year), Adam Griffiths (Newcastle Jets, Australia - 3 years), Scott Higgins (Eastern Suburbs, Australia - 1 year), Jefferson (Atletico Roraima, Brazil - 1 year), Milson (Madureira, Brazil - 1 year), Tahj Minniecon (U/23 marquee: Brisbane Roar, Australia - 3 years), Matt Osman (Central Coast Mariners, Australia

- 2 years), Steve Pantelidis (Melbourne Victory, Australia - 2 years), Joel Porter (Hartlepool United, England - 3 years), Daniel Piorkowski (Newcastle Jets, Australia - 2 years), Kristian Rees (Adelaide City, Australia - 2 years), Robson (Cabofriense, Brazil - 1 year), Shane Smeltz (Wellington Phoenix, New Zealand - 3 years), Michael Thwaite (SK Brann, Norway - 3 years), Adama Traore (Ecole de Football Yeo Martial, Ivory Coast - 3 years), Bas van den Brink (FC Omniworld, Netherlands - 2 years), Jess Vanstrattan (Verona, Italy 2 years).



Melbourne Victory

pulled off their biggest signing coups in the off-season when they announced that Club Captain Kevin Muscat had signed on for another year along with the successful transfer of Costa Rican Carlos Hernandez to the club for the next 3 years. In addition, the Victory signed twenty six year-old Thai international defender Surat Sukha on a two-year deal. Unfortunately, foundation goal-keeper Michael Theoklitos was released to take up a contract with English League One Club Norwich City, whilst Jose Luis Lopez mutually ended his loan period with Melbourne Victory, to allow him to return to Costa Rica in the hope of claiming a place in the national team leading into the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Head Coach Ernie Merrick took his team to China for matches against Guangzhou and Tianjin and also had an eventful road-trip to Queenstown, New Zealand, for a match against Wellington Phoenix in very chilly conditions. In their other major pre-season match Melbourne Victory was defeated 0-3 by Fulham FC at Etihad Stadium.

Current Squad: Daniel ALLSOPP, Evan BERGER, Grant BREBNER, Leigh BROXHAM, Billy CELESKI, Nathan ELASI, Carlos HERNANDEZ, Matthew KEMP, Mitchell LANGERAK (gk), Glen MOSS (gk), Kevin MUSCAT (c), Nay Fabiano, Steven PACE, Tom PONDELJAK, Surat SUKHA, Mathew THEODORE, Archie THOMPSON, Rodrigo VARGAS, Daniel VASILEVSKI and Nick WARD.

Re-signed: Evan Berger (2 years), Grant Brebner (1 year), Billy Celestki (2 years), Carlos Hernandez (Alajuelense, Costa Rica - 3 years), Matthew Kemp (2 years), Mitchell Langerak (3 years), Kevin Muscat (1 year), Archie Thompson (2 years), Rodrigo Vargas (2 years), Nick Ward (2 years).

In: Glen Moss (Wellington Phoenix - 2 years), Surat Sukha (Chonburi FC, Thailand - 2 years), Mathew Theodore (Melbourne Victory NYL - 1 year)

Out: Steve Pantelidis (Gold Coast United), Jose Luis Lopez (Deportivo Saprissa, Cost Rica), Sebastian Ryall (Sydney

FC), Michael Theoklitos (Norwich City, England), Michael Thwaite (Gold Coast United).



The Newcastle Jets

made it out of the group stage in their first foray into the AFC Champions League but were knocked out by Korean club Pohang Steelers in the Round of 16 last month. Since then, the Jets have signed Brodie Mooy and Sean Rooney after their impressive AFC Champions League performances and also appointed Branko Culina as their Head Coach. Culina has had his eye on a number of trialists in the past week and is expected to make his final squad signings in the near future. Due to their heavy match schedule during the "off-season", the Jets have played fewer pre-season friendlies in comparison to the other clubs, but no doubt they will be looking for a flying start come round 1.

Current Squad: Angelo COSTANZO, Adam D'APUZZO, Donny De GROOT, Tarek ELRICH, Jason HOFFMAN, Marko JESIC, Ben KANTAROVSKI, Ben KENNEDY (gk), Ljubo MILICEVIC, Brodie MOOY, Jason NAIDOVSKI, Shaun ONTONG, Kaz PATAFTA, Sasho PETROVSKI, Sean ROONEY, Jin-Hyung SONG, Matthew THOMPSON (c), Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY and Jobe WHEELHOUSE.

Re-signed: Jobe Wheelhouse (2 years), Kaz Patafta (2 years).

In: Angelo Costanzo (Adelaide United - 1 year), Donny de Groot (De Graafschap, Netherlands - 1 year), Ljubo Milicevic (Melbourne Victory - 1 year), Brodie Mooy (Newcastle Jets NYL - 2 years), Sasho Petrovski (Central Coast Mariners - 2 years), Nikolai Topor-Stanley (Perth Glory - 2 years), Sean Rooney (Sydney FC NYL - 2 years).

Out: Ante Covic (IF Elfsborg, Sweden), Adam Griffiths (Gold Coast United), Joel Griffiths (Beijing Guoan - On loan), Jesper Hakansson (released), Antun Kovacic (Ulsan Hyundai, Korea Republic), Mark Milligan (Shanghai Shenhua, China), Jade North (Incheon United FC, Korea Republic).



North Queensland Fury

has had an interesting pre-season with only one win from their nine matches but have learned plenty from the experience. The highlight so far was seeing their inaugural marquee player, Robbie Fowler, score on debut against newly promoted English Premier League Club Wolverhampton Wanderers in Perth. The addition of Qantas Young Soccerool Osama Malik

and former youth international David Williams will also provide plenty of speed and excitement for the Fury. Felipe, Marton Vass and Brendon Santalab will not line up for North Queensland this season with Felipe and Vass mutually terminating their contracts and Santalab moving to Chinese Super League outfit Chengdu Blades.

Current Squad: Fred AGIUS, Jeremy BROCKIE, Beau BUSCH, Robbie FOWLER, Rostyn GRIFFITHS, Chris GROSSMAN, Paul KOHLER, Osama MALIK, Daniel McBREEN, Robert MIDDLEBY, Justin PASFIELD (gk), James ROB-INSON, Jason SPAGNUOLO, Chris TADROSSE, Ufuk TALAY, John TAMBOURAS, Jacob TIMPANO, David WILLIAMS and Scott WILSON.

In: Fred Agius (Adelaide City - 1 year), Beau Busch (Sydney FC - 1 year), Jeremy Brockie (Team Wellington, New Zealand - 1 year), Robbie Fowler (Blackburn Rovers, England - 2 years), Rostyn Griffiths (Adelaide United - 1 year, Chris Grossman (Brisbane Roar - 1 year), Paul Kohler (Newcastle Jets - 1 year), Osama Malik (Adelaide United NYL - 1 year), Daniel McBreen (York City, England - 1 year), Robbie Middleby (Sydney FC - 2 years), Justin Pasfield (Wollongong Wolves - 2 years), James Robinson (Perth Glory - 2 years), Jason Spagnuolo (Adelaide United - 2 years), Chris Tadrosse (Central Coast Mariners - 2 years), Ufuk Talay (Avispa Fukuoka, Japan - 2 years), Jacob Timpano (Sydney FC - 2 years), David Williams (Brøndby - 1 year loan), Scott Wilson (Dunfermline Athletic - 2 years)

Out: Felipe (mutual termination), Brendon Santalab (Sydney FC - 2 years), Marton Vass (APIA Leichhardt - 1 year),



Perth Glory

have continued their audacious recruitment program with the signings of Qantas Soccerools Mile Sterjovski and Chris Coyne along with English defender Andy Todd and Serbian striker Branko Jelic. Twenty year-old Western Australian born and bred goalkeeper Aleks Vrtiski returns to Perth Glory after spending the past season in Macedonia with FK Pobeda. On the field, Perth Glory's pre-season campaign hasn't been as successful with losses to touring English Premier League clubs Fulham FC and Wolverhampton Wanderers as well as Adelaide United. Head Coach David Mitchell isn't too worried at the moment and knows that pre-season results mean very little once the competition starts.

Current Squad: Scott BULLOCH, Jacob BURNS, Chris COYNE, Jamie COYNE, Eugene DADI, Jimmy DOWNEY, Howard FONDYKE, Brent GRIFFITHS, Jamie HARNWELL, Branko JELIC, Andrija JUKIC, Scott NEVILLE, Adriano PELLEGRINO, Naum SEKULOVSKI, Victor SIKORA,

Anthony SKORICH, Wayne SRHOJ, Mile STERJOVSKI, Andrew TODD, Tando VELAPHI (gk) and Aleks VRTESKI (gk).

Re-signed: Eugene Dadi (1 year), Adriano Pellegrino (2 years), Naum Sekulovski (2 years), Victor Sikora (1 year), Scott Bulloch (1 year), Tando Velaphi (2 years), Wayne Srhoj (1 year).

In: Jacob Burns (FC Unirea Urziceni, Romania - 3 years), Chris Coyne (Colchester United, England - 3 years), Howard Fondyke (Perth Glory NYL - 2 years), Brent Griffiths (Perth Glory NYL - 2 years), Branko Jelic (Energie Cottbus, Germany - 3 years), Andrija Jukic (Perth Glory NYL - 2 years), Scott Neville (Perth Glory NYL - 3 years), Anthony Skorich (Perth Glory NYL - 2 years), Mile Sterjovski (Derby County, England -), Andy Todd (Derby County, England - 1 year), Aleks Vrtiski (FK Pobeda - 2 years).

Out: Jason Petkovic (retired), Nikolai Topor-Stanley (Newcastle Jets), David Tarka (released), Dino Djulbic (Rot Weiss Ahlen, Germany), Nick Rizzo (released), James Robinson (North Queensland Fury), Adrian Trinidad (released), Amaral (released), Josip Magdic (released), Nikita Rukavitsya (FC Twente, Netherlands), Hayden Doyle (Perth Glory NYL), Hayden Foxe (released), Mark Lee (released)



Sydney FC

has enjoyed somewhat of a quiet revolution under new Head Coach Vitezslav Lavicka. The recent signing of Korean defender Byun Sung-Hwan from K-League club Jeju United on a 2 year deal goes a long way toward filling the space left after former Qantas Soccerool Tony Popovic retired midway through last season to take up a coaching position within the club. From their 12 pre-season matches Sydney FC are undefeated, have scored an impressive 25 goals and conceded just 1 goal in 1080 minutes of football! Lavicka is not getting carried away with this early success and has been very careful with the amount of game time that he has given individual players to ensure that they will be ready for the start of the season.

Current Squad: John ALOISI, Clint BOLTON (gk), Mark BRIDGE, Alex BROSQE, Sung-Hwan BYUN, Adam CASEY, Shannon COLE, Simon COLOSIMO, Steve CORICA, Kofi DANNING, Brendan GAN, Anthony GOLEC, Rhyan GRANT, Matthew JURMAN, Karol KISEL, Terry MCFLYNN, Stuart MUSIALIK, Ivan NECEVSKI (gk), Chris PAYNE, Mitchell PRENTICE and Sebastian RYALL.

Re-signed: Alex Brosque (2 years), Adam Casey (2 years), Shannon Cole (3 years), Ivan Necevski (1 year).

In: Karol Kisel (Sparta Prague, Czech

Republic - 1 year), Sebastian Ryall (Melbourne Victory - 2 years), Kofi Danning (Sydney FC NYL - 2 years), Brendan Gan (Sydney FC NYL - 2 years), Antony Golec (Sydney FC NYL - 2 years), Rhyan Grant (Sydney FC NYL - 2 years), Matthew Jurman (Sydney FC NYL - 2 years), Byun Sung-Hwan (Jeju United, Korea Republic - 2 years)

Out: Adam Biddle (released), Beau Busch (North Queensland Fury), Mike Enfield (released), Iain Fyfe (Adelaide United), Robbie Middleby (North Queensland Fury), Tony Popovic (retired), Brendon Santalab (North Queensland Fury), Jacob Timpano (North Queensland Fury), Nik Tsattalios (Newcastle Jets)



Wellington Phoenix

have had a somewhat interrupted pre-season with seven players and head coach Ricki Herbert joining the New Zealand national team, the All Whites, to compete at the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup in South Africa during June. Herbert has also been busy in the transfer market recently signing goalkeeper Reece Crowther from Queens Park Rangers, striker Paul Ifill from Crystal Palace and Kiwi teenager Marco Rojas from Hamilton Wanderers. The Phoenix pre-season schedule included matches against Melbourne Victory in Queenstown and a Mainland Select XI in Christchurch before heading to China for fixtures against Tianjin Teda and Guangzhou Pharmaceutical. Wellington's final pre-season match will be against the Central Coast Mariners in Dubbo this Saturday.

Current Squad: Costa BARBAROUSES, Leo BERTOS, Tim BROWN, Daniel CORTEZ, Reece CROWTHER (gk), Diego, Andrew DURANTE (c), Michael FERRANTE, Chris GREENACRE, Troy HEARFIELD, Paul IFILL, Vince LIA, Tony LOCHHEAD, Jon MCKAIN, David MULLIGAN, Manny MUSCAT, Mark PASTON (gk) and Benjamin SIGMUND.

Re-signed: Tim Brown (2 years), Manny Muscat (1 year), Mark Paston (1 year), Tony Lochhead (2 years), Michael Ferrante (1 year), Daniel Cortes (2 years), Ben Sigmund (2 years).

In: Reece Crowther (Queens Park Rangers, England - 1 year), Chris Greenacre (Tranmere Rovers, England - 2 years), Paul Ifill (Crystal Palace, England - 2 years), Marco Rojas (Hamilton Wanderers - 2 years), Diego Walsh (Adelaide United - 2 years)

Out: Jeremy Christie (released), Vaughan Coveny (retired), Karl Dodd (released), Greg Draper (released), Richard Johnson (retired), Glen Moss (Melbourne Victory), Shane Smeltz (Gold Coast United).

Full A-League Previews in next week's GW

THE POWER OF THE EURO!

Transfer Deals Continue To Grip Football World

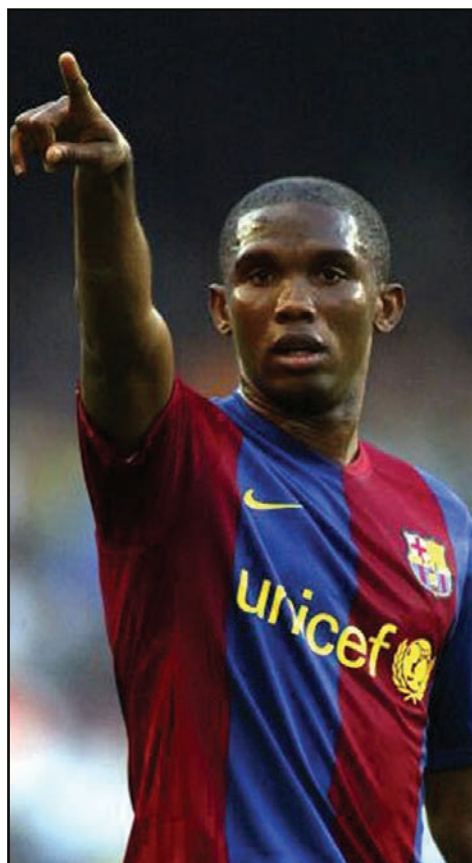
It's been the silliest of the silly seasons. Still not even a month into the transfer season, we have witnessed some incredible deals.

Madrid have twice broken the transfer fee record, with the purchases of Kaka and Cristiano Ronaldo, before opening their cheque book for a third time to sign Karim Benzema. Manchester City has also spent big this season, with the big money acquisitions of Emmanuel Adebayor, Carlos Tevez and Gareth Barry. However, the deal which will grab all the headlines and spark the fiercest debate is one which will apparently be confirmed over the next seven days.

It is expected that Barcelona will complete the signing of Serie A top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic, for 35 million euros, from Inter Milan, with Eto'o and Hleb (on a season long loan) heading to the San Siro, within a week, in a deal which will surely draw mixed reactions from both sets of supporters. Josep Guardiola has made no secret of his desire to rid his team of Samuel Eto'o, despite the Cameroonian's amazing goal tally for the club. However, with Eto'o unwilling to accept a contract from City, it seems Guardiola is happy to give away the lethal finisher in an attempt to sign the Swedish front man Ibrahimovic. There is little doubting the goal scoring prowess of either man, but despite Ibrahimovic's impressive domestic record in Italy, one still has to question if he is worth 35 million euros and the services of a striker who has a very similar, if not better, strike rate domestically.

It is true that in terms of league goals, the two front men have had similar successes.

This season, Eto'o finished with 30 league goals, whilst Ibrahimovic scored 25. The season before Ibrahimovic managed 17 Serie A goals, whilst Eto'o grabbed 16 of his own in the Primera Division, despite having his season ravaged with injury. What this means is that Ibrahimovic is likely to score as many goals in the league as Eto'o has managed in his time at Barca, and similarly, Eto'o will de-



Samuel Eto'o



Zlatan Ibrahimovic

liver just as many goals for Inter as he did at Barca.

However, the big difference between the two is most obvious in Europe. Samuel Eto'o goals have helped Barcelona to two Champions League wins in the space of four seasons. Not only did he score in both finals, but he scored important goals in the knockout rounds in the lead up to both finals. There are few things valued higher in football than a striker who can score big goals at the highest stage, and Eto'o is one of the few who you can always count on in Europe to score the important goals.

The same cannot be said for Ibrahimovic. As talented as he is, the fact that he has never scored in the knockout rounds of the Champions League has to be considered as a big problem. So many times in recent seasons, Inter have lacked that vital goal in Europe and time after time, Ibrahimovic has failed to deliver it. This can hardly be blamed on a lack of quality players surrounding him considering he has had players of the calibre of Cambi-

asso, Luis Figo, Zanetti and Stankovic creating chances for him. Eto'o on the other hand scored three of his four Champions League goals in the knockout rounds of the Champions League, including the final.

With only a year's difference in age between the two, it is hard to make sense of the move from Barcelona's perspective. It is true that Eto'o has the potential to upset the harmony in the Barcelona dressing room, and there is no denying his large ego, however, can the same not be said of Ibrahimovic? After all, this is the same man who shamelessly boasted that he was the best player in the world throughout last season. In effect, this means that Barcelona are replacing a proven goalscorer, both domestically and in Europe, with one who is lethal domestically without ever really setting the world alight in Europe. When you consider that Ibrahimovic is a mere one year younger than his Cameroonian counterpart, and equally temperamental it seems odd that Barcelona are also set

to loan Hleb, and fork out an extra 35 million euros for the Swede's services.

However, Barcelona's loss is Inter's gain. Jose Mourinho must surely be drooling at the prospect of sealing this deal, and it would surely go down as the steal of the century. They may be losing their top scorer, but he will be instantly replaced by Eto'o, who comes with every chance of scoring the goals in Europe Inter Milan have so desperately lacked, with the added bonus of a proven winger in Hleb, and best of all, they've been given 35 million Euro's for their troubles. Not a bad deal at all for the "Special One".

Whether or not Ibrahimovic will be able to step up at the Camp Nou remains to be seen, however Eto'o will surely go from strength to strength in Italy where the game is slower and even less physical than the Primera Division. Ibrahimovic may yet prove his doubters wrong, however it will take some serious goal scoring exploits on his part to justify the exuberant amount being spent on him.

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MELBOURNE RECORDS FIRST TASMANIAN VICTORY

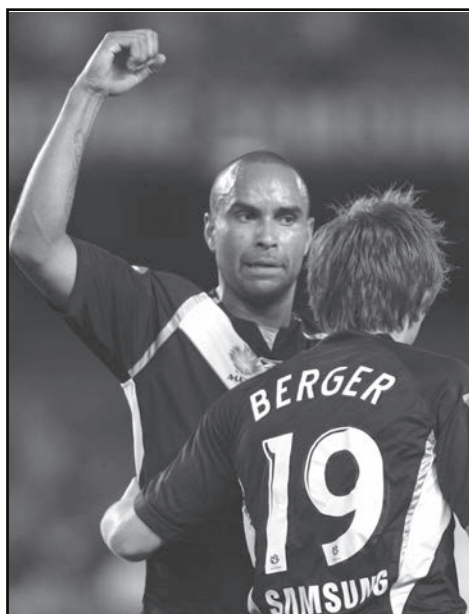
Melbourne Victory recorded its first win on Tasmanian soil and fine tuned its preparations ahead of the 2009/10 season with a 2-1 defeat of Adelaide United in a Grand Final rematch at Aurora Stadium on Sunday.

Grant Brebner and Archie Thompson secured the result for Melbourne Victory in the first half, with Brazilian Cassio finding the net for Adelaide in the latter stages of Melbourne Victory's final friendly ahead of its season opener against Central Coast Mariners at Etihad Stadium on Thursday, August 6.

A vociferous crowd of 6257 witnessed a lively start to Melbourne Victory's fourth match in as many years in Launceston, with chances coming at both ends in the opening minutes.

Adelaide striker Cristiano had a close range header parried away by a diving Glen Moss, before Thompson hit the post moments later following a dashing run at former Melbourne Victory goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic.

It took 16 minutes for Melbourne



Archie Thompson

Victory to register its opening goal, with Scottish midfielder Brebner finding space in the penalty area and tapping home a Leigh Broxham corner kick.

Broxham turned provider again with another corner kick 12 minutes later,

Match Details:

Melbourne Victory 2 (Grant Brebner 19', Archie Thompson 29')
Adelaide United 1 (Cassio 57')
Sunday, July 26, 2009
Aurora Stadium, Launceston
Referee: Kevin Docherty
Crowd: 6257

Melbourne Victory:
20. Glen MOSS (gk), 2. Kevin MUSCAT (Captain), 6. Leigh BROXHAM, 8. Grant BREBNER, 9. Danny ALLSOPP (11. NEY FABIANO 78'), 10. Archie THOMPSON, 12. Rodrigo VARGAS, 15. Tom PONDELJAK (22. Nick WARD 73'), 16. Carlos HERNANDEZ (14. Billy CELESKI 62'), 17. Matthew FOSCHINI (Youth), 19. Evan



BERGER

Substitutes not used: 1. Mitchell LANGERAK (gk)

Adelaide United:

1. Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), 3. ALEMAO (23. Joe COSTA 85'), 4. Iain FYFE, 7. Lucas PANTELIS, 9. CRISTIANO, 10. Adam HUGHES, 13. Travis DODD (Captain), 14. Scott JAMIESON, 15. Francesco MONTEROSSO (6. CASSIO 53'), 16. SHIN (2. Robert CORNTHWAITE 61'), 17. Michael MARRONE



Substitutes not used: 20. Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)

Yellow cards: Lucas Pantelis 30'

this time finding Thompson, who doubled Melbourne Victory's lead.

Cassio was introduced soon after the break and reduced the margin with a clean volley from a pinpoint Shin cross on 57 minutes.

All Melbourne Victory players will appear at the Melbourne Victory Fan Fest at on Sunday, August 2, before facing Central Coast in Round 1 of the 2009/10 season at Etihad Stadium August 6 (kick off 8pm).

HONOURS EVEN IN FRIENDLY CLASH WITH THE JETS

Sydney FC has completed its on-field build up to the coming Hyundai A-League season - forced to settle for a hard fought 1-all draw on Sunday afternoon in its final friendly hit-out, against the Newcastle Jets at a damp Sydney Football Stadium.

A late strike from Jin Hyun Song cancelled out Alex Brosque's first half finish but the result keeps Sydney's undefeated record intact, with the Sky Blues claiming eleven wins, two draws and conceding just two goals during a thirteen match pre-season program.

"We are happy," said Coach Vitezslav Lavicka. "We try some options of lineup, try some systems and now we are hungry to start (the season)."

After a dominant start the Sky Blues had the first chance of the match in the 14th minute with Brendan Gan's cushioned header falling to Mark Bridge, whose shot on the turn was pushed away for a corner by Jets' custodian, Ben Kennedy.

Sydney continued to impress and Bridge turned provider for the match's opening goal, 28 minutes into the contest. Following a long ball out of defence the striker threaded a lovely through pass into the path of Brosque who ran through on goal before unleashing a left foot drive across the face and into the bottom corner.

Kennedy was being kept busy and again

frustrated Bridge, pulling off a point blank save from the forward's volley in the 37th minute to ensure the deficit remained at just one heading into half time.

Sydney keeper Ivan Necevski had his first real involvement eight minutes after the restart, with former Sky Blue Sasho Petrovski forcing a fine save.

Midway through the second period it was Sydney that looked set to extend the scoreline. Captain Steve Corica seemed certain to put the hosts two-nil up but his goal-bound effort cannoned unluckily into the back of Bridge before rebounding away to safety with Kennedy well beaten.

Despite Sydney's dominance, a defensive lapse opened the door for Newcastle to draw level in the closing stages of the game. A clever ball towards the box from substitute Fabio Vignaroli caught the Sydney defence square and an unmarked Song ghosted past his marker before lobbing the ball over Necevski to tie the scores in the 73rd minute.

Newcastle came close to taking an unlikely lead six minutes later with Sean Rooney's shot whistling wide. The hosts then poured forward in search of a winner in the closing stages and Sydney's Slovakian midfielder Karol Kisel came close with a header just over the bar two minutes from full time but neither team would find the net again - the game ending at 1-all.

"We have positive things, especially from the first half. First half was much better than second," assessed Coach Lavicka after the match.

Swiss triallist Stephan Keller did his push for a contract no harm with an impressive 90 minutes display alongside Simon Colosimo in central defence and

looks set to become Sydney's final signing in the coming days.

Next Sunday, August 2, Sydney return to the SFS for its annual fan day, before travelling to Townsville the following week for its opening round clash against the North Queensland Fury.

Match Detail

Sydney FC 1 (BROSQUE 28')
Newcastle Jets 1 (SONG 73')

Sydney FC: 20. Ivan NECEVSKI (gk), 4. Simon COLOSIMO, 6. Karol KISEL, 8. Stuart MUSIALIK, 10. Steve CORICA (c), 12. Shannon COLE, 14. Alex BROSQUE, 19. Mark BRIDGE (38. Kerim BULUT 78'), 22. Sung Hwan BYUN, 32. Brendan GAN, 39. Stephan KELLER.



Substitutes Not Used: 30. John FILAN (gk), 5. Mitchell PRENTICE, 36. Zach CAIRNCROSS.

Yellow Cards: nil.

Red Card: nil.

Goals: Alex BROSQUE 28'

Newcastle Jets: 1. Ben KENNEDY (gk), 3. Adam D'APPUZZO, 4. Andrea MERENDA (6. Fabio VIGNAROLI 60'), 5. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 7. Jin Hyun SONG, 9. Sasho PETROVSKI (c) (11. Felipe GARCIA 71'), 10. Jorge FLORENTIN (8. Matthew THOMPSON 46'), 12. Jobe WHEELHOUSE, 13. Shaun ONTONG, 14. Angelo COSTANZO, 19. Peter HAYNES (17. Sean ROONEY 60').



Substitutes Not Used: 40. Ben MCNAMARA (gk), 16. Mitchell JOHNSON, 21. Brodie MOOY, Jesse PINTO, Jarrad ROSS.

Yellow Cards: Adam D'APUZZO 13', Ljubo MILICEVIC 57'.

Red Card: nil.

Goals: Hyung Song JIN 73'.

Referee: Gerard Parsons.



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PORTER STRIKE GOOD ENOUGH FOR UNITED

Perth Glory 0
Gold Coast United 1

JOEL Porter struck the decisive blow for Gold Coast United as the Hyundai A-League newcomers overcame Perth Glory in their final pre-season game at Bunbury, Western Australia.

The former Socceroo's 23rd minute goal crowned a dominant performance from Miron Bleiberg's men who enjoyed the lion's share of possession without really hitting top gear throughout the ninety minutes.

Midfield superiority was the key for United with the central trio of Zenon Caravella, Steve Pantelidis and Jason Culina providing much of the impetus and bite for the visitors.

Despite being under pressure for much of the match, Perth still had their opportunities. Jelic missed an open goal on the quarter hour and James Downey shot straight at the advancing Jess Vanstrattan as the first half drew to a close.

United's winner came after Caravella won possession in the middle of the park before finding Shane Smeltz out on the right wing. When the Kiwi international crossed to the far



Joel Porter made sure Gold Coast United heads into the A-League on a winning note.

post, Porter stole in to beat his marker to the ball and smash home from close range.

Gold Coast continued to press for more goals in the second period and Caravella almost doubled their lead after some neat footwork on the edge of the box fashioned a

shooting chance.

Brazilian striker Milson replaced Smeltz with just under 20 minutes remaining and almost immediately marked his arrival with a goal when he latched on to a precise through ball from Culina, but shot narrowly wide.

Porter nearly chipped Glory goalkeeper Tando Velaphi five minutes from time, but in the end United had to settle for the 1-0 scoreline that maintained their unbeaten pre-season record.

"Glory were missing a few players and we were missing one or two, but we did well and really didn't extend ourselves too much," said United Head Coach Miron Bleiberg.

He continued: "A lot of people will say that pre-season isn't important and so on, but I believe that you need to prepare yourself well to succeed in football just as you have to with everything in life.

"Our pre-season is over now and we have achieved what we wanted to achieve from it. Every game has been important because it has provided our players with more knowledge of each other. We are ready for the season to begin now and we can't wait."

Match details:

GOLD COAST UNITED
1.Jess VANSTRATTAN (gk), 2.Steve PANTELIDIS, 6. Adam GRIFFITHS, 7.Zenon CARAVELLA, 9.Shane SMELTZ (Milson 72'), 13.Bas VAN DEN BRINK, 10.Jason CULINA (capt), 14.Joel PORTER, 16.Kristian REES, 17.Matt OSMAN, 22.Adama TRAORE (Fitzsimmons 56').



Subs not used: 24.Steve LUSTICA.
Yellow cards: none
Red Cards: none.
Goals: Joel Porter 23'



PERTH GLORY
1.Tando VELAPHI (gk), 2.James DOWNEY, 3.Jamie COYNE, 6.Chris COYNE (Griffiths 72'), 8.Victor SIKORA, 11.Branko JELIC (Taggart 84'), 12.Scott NEVILLE, 13.Scott BULLOCH (Howarth 46'), 16.Adriano PELLEGRINO, 19.Naum SEKULOVSKI, 21.Mile STERJOVSKI.

Subs not used: 20.Aleks VRTESKI (gk).
Yellow cards: Pellegrino 63'
Red Cards: none.
Goal: None

MARINERS COMPLETE UNDEFEATED PRE-SEASON

Central Coast Mariners 0
Wellington Phoenix 0

The Central Coast Mariners will go into the opening match of the Hyundai A-League 2009/10 season with plenty of confidence, after finishing their pre-season undefeated, with a scoreless draw against Wellington Phoenix at Apex Oval in Dubbo.

Adam Kwasnik had the chance to secure what would have been a deserved victory against his former club with almost the last kick of the game, but regardless, Dubbo was treated to a football spectacle.

Tim Brown had the first chance of the match as the Phoenix went looking for an early goal, but after he headed over, the momentum swung quickly in the Mariners favour.

Brad Porter made a good run down the right wing before seeing his dangerous delivery cleared, while Pedj Bojic had a chance to repeat his free-kick heroics, which have dominated his pre-season.

But, after stepping up 30 yards out, Bojic sent his dead ball effort wide of the far post.

Trialist Michael McGlinchey was the next to create an opening, feeding Dean Heffernan in the left channel, Heffernan taking the ball to the byline, before having his cross cut out.

The Mariners best chance of the opening 45 minutes came just before the half hour mark, Adam Kwasnik playing a great ball through to Dylan Macallister, who showed

plenty of strength to turn his marker, but was unlucky to see his volley shave the crossbar.

Porter also went close to giving the yellow and navy a deserved lead, but a low effort was brilliantly saved by a diving Mark Paston.

Porter was causing plenty of headaches for the Phoenix, Paston punching clear under heavy pressure, before the Kanwal junior forced a corner soon after.

And, with the half drawing to a close, Central Coast had one last chance to head into the sheds with the ascendancy, Kwasnik again putting Macallister through, Andrew Durante blocking the former Lyn Oslo and SC Brann striker's run to ensure honours remained even.

Macallister was just millimetres from finding the back of the net soon after the restart, but his outstretched boot just couldn't connect with a Kwasnik through ball.

Vince Lia shot straight at Danny Vukovic in a rare Wellington attack, while Andrew Durante headed a Leo Bertos free kick over the bar.

Chris Doig had a goalbound header well saved by Paston down low, and it appeared it was only a matter of time before the Mariners were on the scoresheet.

Tim Brown headed wide after finding himself free on the penalty spot, and twice late on the Mariners were denied in one-on-one situations.

First Michael McGlinchey forced Paston well out of his box, amid calls for handball, while Kwasnik perhaps should have finished the game off deep into injury time, but the

Phoenix custodian was once again brilliant in denying the yellow and navy, a scoreless draw confirmed.

The Mariners Hyundai A-League 2009/10 campaign kicks off on Thursday, 6 August when they take on Melbourne Victory at Etihad Stadium. Kick-off is at 8pm.

The Mariners first home match of the Hyundai A-League season is against local rival Newcastle Jets on Friday, August 14. Tickets are available online at www.ticketek.com.au <<http://www.ticketek.com.au>> or by phoning 132 849.

Mariners Memberships for the Hyundai A-League 2009/10 season are now available online at www.ccmariners.com.au <<http://www.ccmariners.com.au>> or by phoning 1300 767 442.



Mariner Adam Kwasnik nearly stole the show with the last kick of the match.

Match Details:

Central Coast Mariners 20. Danny Vukovic (gk), 4. Pedj Bojic, 5. Brad Porter, 7. John Hutchinson, 8. Dean Heffernan, 11. Dylan Macallister (22. Nicky Travis 80'), 16. Nigel Boogaard, 17. Chris Doig, 18. Alex Wilkinson (c), 23. Adam Kwasnik, 25. Michael McGlinchey.

Unused Subs 1. Nathan Kenyon (gk), 6. David D'Apuzzo, 21. Ahmad Elrich.

Yellow Cards None
Red Cards None
Goals None



Wellington Phoenix 1. Mark Paston (gk), 2. Manny Muscat, 3. Tony Lochhead, 4. Jon McKain, 6. Tim Brown, 7. Leo Bertos, 9. Chris Greenacre, 10. Michael Ferrante, 16. Vince Lia, 22. Andrew Durante, 23. Costa Barbarouses.

Unused Subs 20. Reece Crowther (gk), 13. Troy Hearfield, 15. David Mulligan, 17. Ben Sigmund.

Yellow Cards Brown 67'
Red Cards None
Goals None

Referee Stuart Wolfe
Crowd Approx 2,500



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FIVE TO THRIVE IN EPL 2009/10

It's only 3 weeks until the start of new EPL season, and it is about this time of year that the days turn to weeks and the weeks to months.

Opening kick-off can't come soon enough. Every team starts with parity and with one big win on opening day Burnley or Wolves could be top of the league. Don't get me started on the ridiculous penchant of the media for league tables after just one game though.

I don't know about you but I love the way the off-season unfolds with all its anticipation of transfers and eagerness of the new season. Experience has told me things will never turn out as well as I envision for my team but that's the beauty of the off-season, it gives us all a chance to dream.

For me, waiting for opening day is like waiting for a reservation at a top restaurant. Though there are many other parallels I could draw the bottom line is, with the constant TV coverage we now enjoy, the EPL is one vast 9 month all you can eat buffet.

Like a buffet there will be times when you can't be bothered to force-feed yourself another morsel, times when you push the plate away regardless of how much you like the product being served up in front of you. Other than their favoured team most fans make the mistake of restricting their viewing diet to the top clubs. This can be especially true of fans of the bigger clubs in as much as they can't be bothered to have an interest in the lesser teams because they are not a direct threat and also they don't get much national media coverage.

My opinion on the subject is that if you ignore even a small part of the EPL menu you could be missing out on some of the more obscure and tasty dishes. That's where I come in.

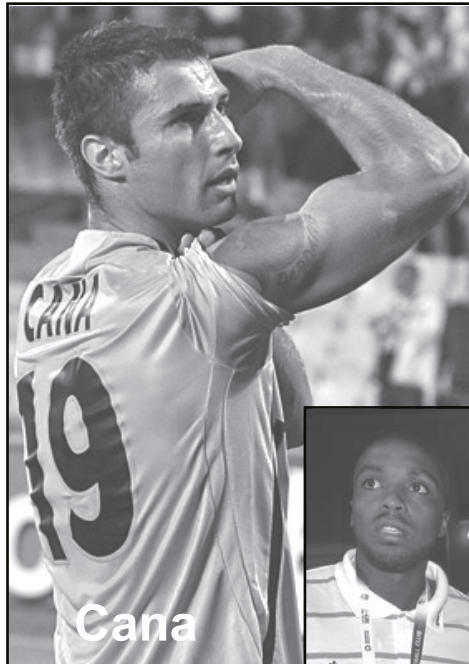
I've compiled a list of good players you may or may not have heard of, players who are being relied upon to perform for their respective teams if they are meet their objectives. Some of these players are fairly unknown outside their areas and others you may have heard of but know very little about.

The next time you see teams like Wolves, Birmingham, Burnley, Sunderland and West Ham on the TV take a look at this list, sit back and enjoy your meal!

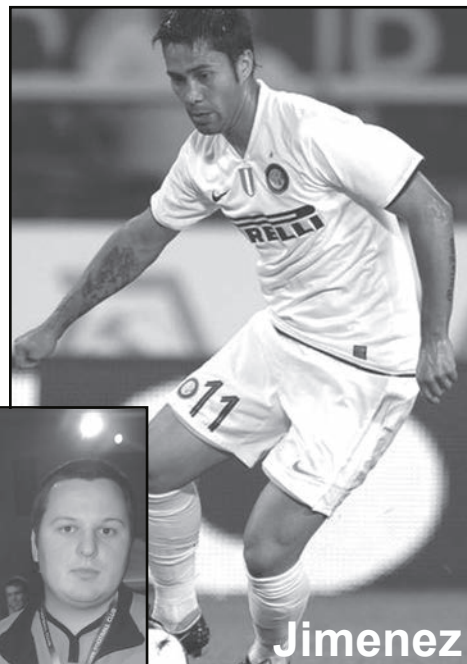
Lorik Cana (Sunderland)

It isn't often an Albanian gets to captain a major club side like Marseille so I figured this guy had to be half decent. His nickname is "Le Destroyer". If you need any explanation just view the YouTube video of his greatest tackles with Marseille.

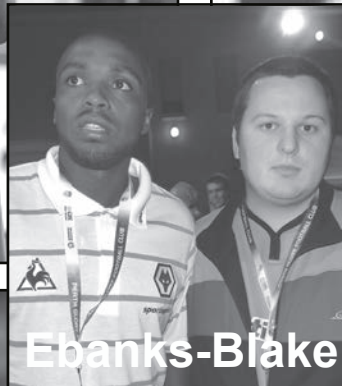
Steve Bruce shelled out £5million for the defensive midfielder who scores just a little more often than a neutered dog. Cana is known as a tough-tackling midfield enforcer cast in the Roy Keane and Patrick Viera style, and has all the subtlety of a



Cana



Jimenez



Ebanks-Blake



Eagles



Jerome

starving Pitbull. Cultured EPL players like Fabregas, Modric and Lampard should take note; he treats every excursion into his territory as though you've just insulted his sister, and he doesn't even have a sister! From what I've seen on YouTube he prefers to be airborne when tackling and I applaud his retro stance toward the tackle from behind which he likes to utilise with horrifying frequency. In all his tackles appear no different to the train service in London. They may arrive late but if you get in the way of them it'll need the cast of Grey's Anatomy to patch you up. Cana may well pick up his share of bookings over here but his style is made for England.

Then again, he notched only one red card last season in France which leads me to believe the referees are lenient or 26 year-old Cana has hypnotic powers over the officials. One thing I'm sure about is if you stray anywhere near his patch he'll bite. Perhaps future visits by opposing teams to the Stadium of Light should come with a

health warning.

He's the type of player that will allow the skill players at the Mackems to express themselves and make the opposition think twice about doing same.

Luis Jimenez (West Ham)

A masterful loan signing from Inter Milan. The Chilean is the definition of a player you need to build the team around and Inter, with their plethora of superstars and an impatient coach Mourinho, were not prepared to do that for one so inconsistent.

His best position is behind the strikers and therein lays the problem. Inter played with one up front and Jimenez didn't get enough goals or assists. At West Ham he may have the same problem but he'll play more regularly and as his confidence grows he could be a player everyone is talking about as spearheading a successful Hammers season.

An excellent dribbler with great vision he has no nickname but that could

soon change if he lives up to his coach's expectations. I would suggest calling him The Magician, given his ability to make something out of nothing.

If they are to be successful (a top 8 finish) they'll need his goals and assists and not a disappearing act.

Sylvan Ebanks-Blake (Wolverhampton Wanderers)

It is often said (mainly by me) that two goals in the Coca-Cola Championship are worth one in the EPL. At that ratio the Wolves striker will hit 13 goals in his first full season in the top flight. That would have put him 6th in the goal scoring chart last year ahead of Lampard, Van Persie, Adebayor, Defoe and many others.

I think that would be enough to ensure survival for Wolves, especially if his strike partner Chris Iwelumo chips in. The trouble is Iwelumo is injured and we'll find out in the first few months of the season if Ebanks-Blake is good enough to carry the Wolves goal-scoring burden alone.

Chris Eagles (Burnley)

Having seen Eagles turn out on the odd occasion for Manchester United in the League Cup I'm delighted he now has the chance to play regularly in the EPL. The right-sided attacker didn't have much of a chance at United with Ronaldo in front of him and was loaned out to various clubs until being bought by Burnley last year. How fitting that the Portuguese star leaves as Eagles starts to reacquire himself at the top table.

His strong points are his dribbling and his crossing, which new signing Steven Fletcher will appreciate.

He's only 23 but his ability to beat his man one-on-one or to hurt the opposition with his crossing will be paramount to whether the new boys stand up to the challenge in the EPL playground or end up tearfully curling up in the corner, lamenting those nasty Premier League bullies.

Cameron Jerome (Birmingham)

For CJ read Ebanks-Blake. He scored 9 in the lower division to help get Birmingham promoted. At 22 it is hard on him to be labelled the main striker and though the Blues have Kevin Phillips I believe CJ's pace will be most important if they are to pick up points on the road.

Scored only 7 goals in 21 starts the last time Birmingham were in the top flight but he is older, wiser and better and should be aiming for double digits. This choice is a shot in the dark as Jerome is yet to hit double digits in any season of football since 2005-2006 with Cardiff. A successful season will be if he hits a dozen and if Birmingham stay up.



WILL IT BE FOUR IN A ROW FOR MAN UNITED?

The 2009/10 Premier League season is still a few weeks from beginning, but already I'm getting a strong feeling as to who will be lifting the league title come the end spring next year.

Having watched a few pre-season fixtures featuring the top few sides, and having keenly observed the transfer dealings conducted by the Premier League big boys, which money wise now include Manchester City, I can confidently predict that I already know that the Premiership Champions at the end of the season will be none other than the team which is defending the title, Manchester United.

Of course, I can immediately see two issues which the above statement raises. One is that nobody should be judged by their pre-season form, as games are completely meaningless with the exception of helping players attain a certain level of fitness. The second issue is that there is still much transfer activity to happen between now and the closing of the window, as well as their being another transfer window opening at the start of next year. Also, during the season it's impossible to chart how differing factors, such as injuries, will affect any Premier League club.

However, with that being said, I still think the title is United's to lose, even at this very early stage. And although I can admit that picking the current champions is not exactly sticking my neck out on the line, I would still suggest that come the end of the season my pick, which I have publicly made right here at the end of July, will be completely correct. And I'll tell you why.

Firstly, before determining how well equipped United are in regards to defending their crown as champions of England, and in fact the World, I feel that I should make a case as to why their potential adversaries for the title, including perhaps their City rivals, are not in a position to take the champions tag away from the Red Devils.

Last season Liverpool maintained their strongest ever challenge for the Premier League title, and at many stages during the season looked a better team than United. They also scored more goals than any other Premier League team, and with the likes of Carragher at the back, Reina in goal and Benitez on the sidelines they will continue to be solid at the back. However, due to problems at board level, they have only brought in Glen Johnson for the upcoming season, and in my opinion they remain extremely frail in attack. Despite all their goals last season, Liverpool lack depth in attack, and apart from Torres and Gerrard they lack goals. Interestingly, I think that Michael Owen, who we shall get



Manchester United already look on course for a record breaking 18th title before a ball has even been kicked.

to later on, would have been a great fit to this Liverpool side, and I'm sure he would have jumped at the chance to join his old club.

I am going to guess that Liverpool will struggle to finish second this upcoming season, as I think that they will struggle away from home, as they always have under Benitez, and I think that if Torres or Gerrard get injured for any lengthy amount of time, their place in the top four could be in jeopardy.

So what about the last Premier League winners before the recent domination of United? Well, Chelsea have done little in the transfer market to this point, but they do have a new manager. And for me, there in lies the reason that they will not win the title. Carlo Ancelotti is not a terrible manager or anything of the sort; I just believe that just as some players struggle to adapt in their few season or so in the league, so will Blues' new boss. Also, as of the writing of this piece, there is still a possibility that Chelsea will lose their cornerstone upon which much of their recent success has been built, John Terry. If Terry leaves and joins Manchester City, which I still do not think will happen, then Chelsea will have a gaping hole at the back which would need filling.

And speaking of big names leaving to City, what about Arsenal's chances of winning their first Premier League title since they went unbeaten on their way to being crowned champions in 2004? Although losing Adebayor will without doubt be a miss for the Gunners, they do still have options up front, and there is till promise in the team as

a whole. However Arsenal are very difficult to predict, as despite all their promise for the last few seasons, they have little to show for their breathtaking football apart from the odd great performance. And the upcoming season will almost certainly be much of the same from Arsene Wenger's men, and with teams like Villa, Everton and of course Manchester City chasing a Champions League place, maybe finishing in the top four will be the best that the team can hope for.

Finally we can come to the real big spenders of the summer, Manchester City. City have spent millions on several names, probably the most notable two being Carlos Tevez and the previously mentioned Adebayor. At the moment I believe that City have about 20 strikers in their ranks, or maybe a few less, and they have added the likes of Gareth Barry to their squad, and I'm sure that the spending isn't over yet. So could they pose a serious threat to United? Well as much as the blue side of Manchester, which I'm told is pretty much all of Manchester, would love to step out of the shadow of their much bigger city rivals and finally win something, I simply cannot see that happening. In fact, I still do not think that City are in a position to challenge for the top four. The squad which Mark Hughes has at his disposal seems ridiculously unbalanced, with all the power up front masking a very soft defence. Much like the Liverpool's and Arsenal's of the Premiership, I think City, as they did last season, will struggle away from home. Not perhaps all the time, but more than United will. And ul-

timately no matter how many goals any of the teams I've mentioned score, no matter how well they play, they will all drop more points than United.

As the last few years have shown, United do not need to blow everyone away week in and week out; they just simply chug forward like an unstoppable train on its way to another title, stopping to pick up points at most of the grounds they visit. Player for player I do not think that United are better than Liverpool, Chelsea and Arsenal, and are only a little better than Villa, Everton and City, yet they win trophies, simple as that. And as I look at the current United squad in action over the last few days, I can't see that changing any time soon.

Many people will feel that losing Carlos Tevez and Cristiano Ronaldo in the same transfer window could spell the end of United's domination of the English game, yet I simply do not see it that way. United fans, as much as they loved Tevez and Ronaldo, love Sir Alex Ferguson even more. And they trust in him more than they would their own grandmothers because he has brought them title after title after title; Champions of England, Champions of Europe, and even Champions of the World.

And not only do United still have the best manager, they also still have a great team. Ronaldo and Tevez may be gone, but they won't be missed. United will have new stars like Valencia from Wigan, they will have young players continually improving like Rafael and Macheda, and they will have Michael Owen. Ferguson has recently suggested that if Owen plays in 25 games next season he will score 15 goals. And I see nothing in United's recent games to suggest otherwise. Owen looks fit, sharp, and better than he ever did in a black and white striped shirt. In a poor team, Owen can look a little less than good, but in a great team like United, Owen once again looks like an international footballer. If he stays injury free, which is always a big if whatever Owen would have you believe, he could even finish top scorer in the league next season. Now surely that prediction is a little bolder than who I think will win the title?

So there you have it, United will win the league next season, and Owen will not only help fire United to the title, but he will book himself on a ticket to net years World Cup with England. And for my final prediction I'm going to say that it will be Owen and his England team-mates lifting the Jules Rimet trophy next summer. Although that's a prediction which is made more out of hope than expectation.



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TOP END OF THE NORTH END

Roy Hay Takes A Tour Of Football Discovery At Deepdale

The National Football Museum at Deepdale in Preston in England is a treasure-house of memories.

For anyone who grew up in the latter stages of the career of the Preston plumber, (Sir) Tom Finney, probably one of the greatest wingers in the history of the game, and a more effective player than his more celebrated contemporary, Stanley Matthews, it is highly evocative. Matthews, the wizard of the dribble, who visited Australia with Blackpool in 1958, is not neglected in the displays, but the history of the Preston North End club, one of the giants of the early game, looms large. Finney is the centrepiece of a current exhibition, entitled Local Hero.

Finney lost so much of his career to the Second World War and he was 24 when he resumed playing with Preston after it ended. He and his brother set up the plumbing business he was associated with and he put in 6-8 hours a day on that, when he was not training during the week. He scored and made goals for Preston and England, playing on the left wing for his country to accommodate Matthews on the right, or at centre-forward if required. A plaque on the floor notes, 'If all the brains in the game sat in committee to design the perfect player, they would come up with a reincarnation of Tom Finney'.

Tributes to the great man are recorded by many of the leading figures in the game, including Tommy Docherty, who played with him, and Ryan Giggs, who was humbled to receive the medal named in Finney's honour. Ben Casey's brilliant statue, The Splash, is outside the stadium, based on the classic photograph by Peter Hodgkinson, which won the Sports Photograph of the Year award in 1956. It shows Tom Finney playing on a water-logged Stamford Bridge against Chelsea.

The museum is attached to Preston North End's football stadium and has the most amazing amount of football memorabilia but no way of understanding how it was put together or how to find out any specific thing. Certainly it leaves a huge amount for people to interpret. But while there is a time-line of contemporary events with photos, films and voice overs to situate the football material, making the links is down to the visitor. I don't know what people will make of a picture of a girl in a short skirt from the 1960s with the legend 'Miniskirts cleaned, twopence per inch'. The presentation of the early history of the game is very old fashioned, with no sign at all of the modern debate or new information about rule-bounded, small-sided matches which were played in many parts of the United Kingdom, not just in the public schools.

The picture is of a quite typical display cabinet. The figures on the left and top are German chocolate moulds in the form of football players from early in the 20th century. The framed picture is of the English FA



Ben Casey's The Splash.

team which toured Australia in 1925. There is a commemorative milk jug for Sheffield Wednesday, sundry books and programs and the sleeve of an England shirt on the extreme right. Talk about an eclectic mixture! Another snippet of information nearby is that Halifax Town opened its stadium during the severe winter of 1963 as an ice rink!

We exhausted ourselves going round the museum, checking out the stadium, visiting the Local Hero exhibition of the Sir Tom Finney story and my wife had a go at the Match of the Day commentary hands-on interactive system. The National Football Museum is well worth a visit if you are ever in England, but leave plenty of time and be prepared to work hard at extracting any particular piece of information you are trying to trace.

By Roy Hay

Photos by Roy Hay in the UK



Typical exhibit at the football museum.

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CUMBERLAND OUTFOX ADELAIDE CITY IN CUP SEMI

Cumberland Foxes have booked a place in the Top Corner Sports Cup Final after knocking out Super League opponent Adelaide City.

The Premier League side were clear underdogs, but showed its intent from the outset. There were big expectations from the Macdonald brothers and they didn’t disappoint. Robert earning his side a penalty while Brenton converted the spot kick to send the Foxes through to the final.

Adelaide City coach Damien Mori opted for youth over experience selecting youngsters Pat De Ruvo and Andrew Marveggio ahead of himself and the likes of George Tsonis and former Adelaide United player Chad Bugeja.

De Ruvo started brightly and after five minutes had the first shot of the match. After a well worked build up, De Ruvo found himself in space on the edge of the area but his shot sailed over the bar.

Robert Macdonald also had a good chance moments later but his shot also was off target. The Foxes midfield worked overtime and suffocated Adelaide City restricting them to long hopeful balls and denying them any opportunity to play their regular flowing brand of football.

Man of the match Tom Briscoe and Yannick Skull were impressive as they stifled City’s attack. Briscoe often lurking and picking up any loose balls and breaking into attack for Cumberland. The Macdonald brothers were tireless and causing all kinds of problems for City’s defence.

Jono Negus was a standout for Adelaide City providing some run down the right.

Cumberland’s player-coach Neil Young was a pillar of strength at the back for the Foxes while his partner in crime, Captain Danny Graystone was also solid as a rock.

City had a good chance just before the break when a Nicholas Orr corner eluded everyone as it whizzed past the back post.

The sides retired at the break with the scores deadlocked at 0-0. City turned out the better of the two sides early in the second half with Nick Budin seeing plenty of the ball. His work up front allowed Jace Cummins a free shot from 12 yards but his missile went well over the bar.

Cumberland keeper Marijan Kolar earned every penny in the opening 10 minutes of the second half with three crucial saves. Budin’s hard work paid off and when he turned his marker and shot truly, Kolar came to the rescue for Cumberland. Marveggio was next to go close but again City was denied by Kolar. Orr’s freekick from 20 yards brought the crowd to their feet as Kolar at full stretch tipped it round the post.

The match was turned on its head in the 65th minuted when a superb run from Daniel Varma opened up the City defence. His cross into the box had the City defenders scrambling while Robert Macdonald nudged the ball past keeper Ben Moore. As he shaped to shoot into the empty net, young substitute Michael Shinnick brought down Macdonald denying him a scoring opportunity. Referee Mark Michael had no hesitation in expelling Shinnick and awarding the penalty. Shinnick had only been the field 13 minutes when he was sent from the park.

Brenton Macdonald stepped up and coolly slotted home the penalty. City coach Damien Mori then came on to replace Jordan D’Arsie and Chad Bugeja also made an appearance minutes later.

The changes saw Adelaide City increase the intensity but to little effect. The Foxes



Blue Eagles Keeper Gino De Lucia punches the ball clear.

absorbed the pressure but were living dangerously. They almost sealed the match however with a fast break as Brenton Macdonald beat Peter Eleftherakis but his layoff to Jody Loomes went astray. It was a frantic finish as Cumberland held on to record an historic win.

Man of the match Tom Briscoe was delighted with the result, “It was a big win and it was good to challenge a Super League team.” Cumberland will now meet the winner of Tuesday night’s second semi-final between Super League leader Campbelltown and State League front runner Enfield. Enfield is yet to lose a game in all competitions.

Adelaide City will now turn their attention back to the Super League. The reigning champions currently lie in fifth spot equal on points with Adelaide Galaxy and are in danger of missing out on a finals berth and a dream shot at a record five consecutive championships.

Round 17 resumes this week with Adelaide City hosting survival hopefuls Western Strikers in the Monday night game.

Adelaide Hills survived another week in the Super League after stealing victory against Adelaide Blue Eagles. The match ended 2-1 with Hills scoring two goals right at the death.

The round seven catch up fixture was the second time in a week the two sides met. With last week’s result ending 2-2, the Hills were well aware they were a good chance to take more points from the Blue Eagles. Every point is crucial for the Hills as relegation looms dangerously although the win has seen their survival chances increase.

The match was equally important for the Blue Eagles who are looking for a top three finish.

The Hills having played three matches in a week showed no signs of fatigue holding

ABE scoreless at the break.

The second half was electric with Gianluca Lagati opening the scoring for ABE. Lagati continued his stellar season with another fine display as Blue Eagles best. Fortunato Filleti also extended his stunning form of late with an impressive performance as did another young star, Nicholas Bucco.

But it was Adelaide Hills who took home all three points and a vital three points in their quest for Super League survival. Jake Markham found the back of the net for the Hills in his best on ground performance while Charles Bowman got on the score sheet yet again. Keeper Daniel Atkins was superb as was Damien Puyenbroek.

Hills have now leapfrogged Modbury Jets who are rock bottom on ten points. Hills have 12, one less than the Western Strikers. The Hawks will face the Strikers on the final day of the season in what is being built up as a clash to determine who will survive in the Super League.

Modbury, Adelaide Hills and Western Strikers are all a chance to survive the drop however they will need to record wins against tough opposition. Modbury host finals hopefuls Galaxy and then second placed Metro Stars while Adelaide Hills met Para Hills and Western Strikers. The Strikers will want to at least claim a point in their match with Adelaide City before facing the Hawks on the last day of the home and away season.

Round 17 has Modbury Jets host Adelaide Galaxy in the Friday night fixture. Saturday’s games include Adelaide Hills taking on Para Hills; Campbelltown meet ABE in the Eastern Italian derby; second against third when Metro Stars travel to Raiders and Adelaide City hosting Western Strikers in the Monday night game.

By Lee Gagliardi

Photo by George Manos

FFSA RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	P
Campbelltown City	16	11	2	3	41	17	24	35	
MetroStars	16	10	3	3	26	12	14	33	
Raiders	16	8	5	3	30	23	7	29	
Adelaide Blue Eagles	16	8	4	4	24	21	3	28	
Adelaide City	16	6	4	6	22	16	6	22	
Adelaide Galaxy	16	6	4	6	22	24	-2	22	
Para Hills	16	4	7	5	20	25	-5	19	
Western Strikers	16	4	1	11	21	32	-11	13	
Adelaide Hills	16	3	3	10	24	31	-7	12	
Modbury	16	3	1	12	19	48	-29	10	

TOP CORNER SPORTS CUP

Cumberland United 1 (B.Macdonald (pen))
Adelaide City 0 (HT 0-0)
Best – Cumberland (N.Young, M.Kolar, B.Macdonald)
Adel City (J.Negus, B.Moore, N.Budin)

Enfield City vs Campbelltown City

Tuesday 28th July - 7:30pm
Adelaide City Park, Hilltop Drive, OAKDEN

RESERVES CUP

Adelaide Galaxy 4 (S.Friedman-Bundy, A.Metanomski, A.Macolino, D.Ellis)
MetroStars 0 (HT 1-0)
Best – Galaxy (A.Metanomski, J.Fusco, A.Bachmayer)
MetroStars (J.Crescitelli, J.Polisena, P.Blefari)

UNDER 19 CUP

Croydon 1 (B.Vingerhoets)
MetroStars 1 (A.Polisena) (HT 1-1) (FT 1-1) (AET 1-1)
MetroStars won 3-2 on penalties
Best – Croydon (B.Vingerhoets, C.Catalano, D.Norman)
MetroStars (P.Terminello, D.Rechichi, A.Peacock)

DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE

Rescheduled from Round 7
Adelaide Hills 2 (J.Markham, S.Bowman)
Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (G.Lagati) (HT 0-0)
Best – Adel Hills (J.Markham, D.Atkins, D.Puyenbroek)
Blue Eagles (G.Lagati, F.Filletti, N.Bucco)

TITLE RACE DOWN TO THE WIRE IN QLD

With just four rounds remaining in the 2009 QSL season, collecting three points each weekend has become even more vital as Olympic and Brisbane Strikers continue to fight it out for the league title.

Brisbane Strikers 4 (Gareth Musson 4’, 59’, Adam Webber 21’, Jonti Richter 39’) - Whitsunday Miners 1 (Joseph Civello 79’)

The Brisbane Strikers moved within two points of league leaders Olympic FC, but again fell foul of officialdom, when they notched a comfortable 4-1 victory over the Whitsunday Miners at Perry Park last night. Despite playing a man short for almost an hour of the match after defender Adam Webber was sent off while conceding a penalty, the Strikers were far too strong for a disappointing Miners outfit who were simply unable to muster the quality needed to take advantage of their numerical superiority. The Strikers made only one change to the starting eleven who took the field for them against Olympic last week, with forward Gareth Musson coming in to replace midfielder Chay Hews, who was invited to play for A-League club Brisbane Roar this weekend. Musson would prove to be a decisive factor as he scored the opening goal of the game and then the clincher in the second half to put the result beyond any doubt.

FNQ Bulls 5 (Josiah Rusch 49’, Glenn Hurney 53’, 55’, 58’, George Koroma 66’) - Bundaberg Spirit 2 (Mitchell Hancock 39 (p), Joe Enish)

FNQ Bulls continued their good form against regional opponents as they easily accounted for Bundaberg. The Bulls were again shorthanded but their injury woes have eased over the past week with the majority of the first team available for the match. The first half saw a tightly contested affair develop as both sides struggled to exert any dominance in midfield. It was to be the visitors who broke the deadlock as Mitchell Hancock converted from the spot in the 39th minute after a reckless challenge from the Bulls defence. Bulls coach Peter Tokesi has spoken several times this season of the need for his team to be able to come back from behind and he would have been delighted with the response from his players as they sough to get back into the game in the second half. Josiah Rusch scored for the Bulls in the 49th minute in what was to be the beginning of an onslaught from the home side as Glenn Hurney then went on to record a six minute hat-trick to put his side comfortable into the lead. The Bulls weren’t done there though as winger George Koroma capped an impressive performance by scoring his sides fifth in what was a comprehensive victory.

Capricorn Cougars Vs Olympic FC - Sun 26th Jul
Capricorn Cougars and Olympic FC both suffered disappointing losses in Round 18, and will be looking to redeem themselves when they meet on Sunday afternoon. Cougars coach Brad Smith faces a dilemma regarding who will start, Ben McMaster and Matt Sauer are still nursing injuries and are unsure if they’ll play while a few players are in a dip of form. Olympic need to win all remaining games in the league if they want to ensure the silverware ends up at Goodwin Park in 2009, and will be keen to gain some momentum ahead of games against Logan United and particularly, Sunshine Coast FC in coming weeks.

Logan United FC Vs Redlands City Devils - Sun 26th Jul
After sitting out last weekend with the bye, Logan United will be raring to go when they host third-placed Redlands City Devils on Sunday. The Devils beat the Cougars 6-1 last weekend, with Russell Woodruffe netting a hat-trick and becoming the league’s highest goal scorer this season, and United will be keeping a close eye on him. Logan will be missing the prolific Cameron Hunt through suspension and will be facing former teammate Raj Oshen who recently made the move back to Redlands City Devils after moving from there in the

off-season. Filip Nechifor is also suspended for Logan. Devils assistant coach David Thorogood said that despite his side’s good run of form, a win is not a given. “It will be a tough game. They are a very capable side and we will not go into the game with any sort of complacency. Third and fourth spots are still very much up for grabs so we are only looking one game at a time”. Logan United coach Michael Rooney echoed Thorogood’s thoughts and said his side may be able to surprise the league and sneak a finals spot if they win two and draw one of their last three games. “Every game is a must-win game. We play the bottom two teams in the last two games.”

By Jarrod Ellis
In Brisbane

QSL STANDINGS												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt				
1 Olympic FC	17	14	1	2	52	17	35	43				
2 Brisbane Strikers	16	12	2	2	55	18	37	38				
3 Sunshine Coast	17	10	2	5	45	24	21	32				
4 Redlands C Devils	17	10	1	6	46	24	22	31				
5 NQ Razorbacks	16	8	2	6	34	25	9	26				
6 Queensland AoS	17	7	3	7	33	35	-2	24				
7 Logan United FC	16	6	4	6	26	31	-5	22				
8 Capricorn Cougars	16	5	1	10	25	50	-25	16				
9 FNQ Bulls	16	4	3	9	26	37	-11	15				
10 Whitsunday Miner	16	3	2	11	25	40	-15	11				
11 Bundaberg Spirit	16	0	1	15	10	76	-66	1				

GAP WIDENS FOR BOTTOM PLACED STIRLING

Last week in the late game Stirling Lions fell three points adrift at the bottom of the league when they lost to Sorrento courtesy of an 84th minute goal from Steve MacDonald.

It was a bitter pill to swallow as they had been bar far the better team and created the better opportunities, but simply lacked a goal scorer. Had they one there would have been four teams locked on twelve points, but the loss saw them set adrift. Unfortunately for them this week saw them take on the rampant Western Knights, who although not playing well keep picking up maximum points, and as a result are sitting in second place on goal difference. This week’s performance from Stirling Lions showed why they are in the predicament they find themselves in. They did not have one shot in ninety minutes, and their passing was often built on hope rather than thought. Straight from Joe Fusari’s whistle they were under the pump. In the second minute Anthony Campbell found space on the right and cut in, but his shot went wide. Then in the eight minute David Micevski shot wide from the edge of the box. A minute later he was on target but his effort rebounded off the cross bar from the same distance. Kevin Miller the former Knights goalkeeper then came to Stirling’s rescue saving two goal-bound efforts from Campbell, the second from a downward header that he did well to smother. In the 16th minute the Knights broke the deadlock. A long ball forward was aimed for Campbell, he rose well to flick onto Marcinko, who laid the ball into the path of Daniel Micevski. He looked to have missed his opportunity when he took a touch but then stretching poked the ball

home, past Miller and into the keeper’s bottom right hand corner. The onslaught continued and Miller stood strong in goal for Stirling. He saved well from Devlin on the angle, and again from Daniel Micevski. However he had Rick Brewer to thank when he missed a corner and the defender cleared Marcinko’s effort on the line. In the 38th minute he made a brave save at the feet of Marcinko as he unleashed his shot following a great cross from Daniel Micevski. But as happened last week, Stirling conceded from the resultant corner and in virtually identical fashion. Warnt-Murray crossed and Ferguson flicked on at the near post, the ball fell to Marcinko at the back post, and unmarked he volleyed home, Stirling failing to have a defender on the post who would have most likely blocked his effort. 2-0 down at half time and Stirling had a mountain to climb, but based on the next forty-five minutes they forgot their Sherpa, as they looked clueless as to how to get back into the game. In fact it was only thanks to the Knights attacking players greed that they did not find themselves on the end of an embarrassing scoreline. On several occasions Daniel Micevski wasted golden scoring opportunities by going alone, when players inside of him were better placed, and every time Miller was up to the task. As much as they were happy with the three points that saw them go top of the table, with Perth still to play in the late game on Sunday, the Knights may well rue these missed opportunities as Perth have a far superior goal difference, and with the two teams meeting in the last round it could in fact decide the title. As for Stirling they fall six points adrift at

the bottom of the table with Armadale defeating Canning City 2-1 thanks to a Mahoney goal in the 83rd minute. While a McCulloch goal for ECU Joondalup saw them defeat Inglewood and move seven points clear. Sorrento remain six points above Stirling as they went down at home to Floreat Athena 3-1 with Brad Scott grabbing a brace. Floreat are in third and six points adrift but wins over the top two and they could well find themselves in the title chase. One thing they have over the Knights is depth in their squad. Mandurah City failed again at home being thumped 3-1 by Cockburn City, a club that is rumoured may fold at the end of the season, which would be a tragedy following the national league and Socceroos who have started their careers there. One thing that keeps the league here interesting is the fact that with only 5 points separating 11th place and 4th on the league table all of these teams have a chance of making the finals. Some say this is good for the league, others say it reflects a decline in standards; whatever you think it keeps it exciting.

Vale
Tibi Besci 72 former Melbourne Knights player in the 1960’s sadly passed away following the Perth Glory’s fixture against Fulham, suffering a heart attack leaving the ground he passed away in his son’s arms. The Besci football tradition though lives on with his grandson Caleb between the posts for the Western Knights under 18’s.

By Ashley Morrison
In Perth

WA RESULTS												
First Team												
Armadale 2 (Robinson 67, Mahoney 83,) Canning City 1 (Trevisiol 82,); Mandurah City 1 (Godfrey 39,) Cockburn City 3 (A. Dos Santos 17, Surjan 26, Findlator 82,); Sorrento 1 (Cunningham 63,) Floreat Athena 3 (B.Scott 18, 26, Mirco 25,); Western Knights 2 (Micevski 16, Marcinko 40,) Stirling Lions 0; ECU Joondalup 1 (McCulloch 57,) Inglewood United 0.												
Sunday 26 July 2009 Perth SC v Swan United, Dorrien Gardens, 3.00pm												
Reserves Armadale 1 Canning City 1; Mandurah City 3 Cockburn City 3; Sorrento 4 Floreat Athena 2; Western Knights 2 Stirling Lions 0; ECU Joondalup 1 Inglewood United 0.												
Under 18’s Armadale 2 Canning City3 ; Mandurah City 3 Cockburn City 4 ; Sorrento 3 Floreat Athena 3; Western Knights 0 Stirling Lions 0; ECU Joondalup 3 Inglewood United 1.												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt				
1 Western Knights	14	11	1	2	31	15	16	34				
2 Perth SC *	13	10	1	2	39	18	21	31				
3 Floreat Athena	14	9	1	4	28	21	7	28				
4 Cockburn City	14	6	2	6	28	23	5	20				
5 Mandurah City	14	5	4	5	24	21	3	19				
6 Canning City	14	5	2	7	28	31	-3	17				
7 Inglewood United	14	5	2	7	18	27	-9	17				
9 ECU Joondalup	14	5	1	8	24	32	-8	16				
8 Sorrento	14	4	3	7	27	30	-3	15				
10 Swan United *	13	4	3	6	21	27	-6	15				
11 Armadale	14	4	3	7	22	30	-8	15				
12 Stirling Lions	14	2	3	9	20	35	-15	9				

GETTING TIGHT AT THE TOP IN NSW

The NSW Premier League's leading two both drew on the weekend as the jostling for finals places became ever more tense. Sydney United remain two points clear at the top after a somewhat fortunate 1-1 draw against Sydney Olympic, the details of which can be found below. Bankstown City held on to second spot with a 0-0 draw with Penrith-Nepean, who are now definitely out of the finals race.

Third-placed Manly were upset at home by lowly Blacktown, 1-0. Phil Moss's Manly side have frequently run out of steam at the end of the season, and 2009 may end up being a repeat of previous years. The Sutherland Sharks posted a crucial 3-1 away win over the Bonnyrigg White Eagles, keeping themselves on track for a place in the finals while ending their opponents' slim hopes of making the five. Despite Sutherland's win, Marconi held on to fourth spot with a 1-1 draw against the APIA-Leichhardt Tigers.

Defending champions Wollongong's nightmare season continued at Lidcombe Oval, as the West Sydney Berries thrashed the Illawarra side 6-1. The Berries are still in with a mathematical chance of sneaking into the finals, but it will take an extraordinary series of results for them to do so.

Sydney Olympic 1-1 Sydney United
In an afternoon of high drama at the Belmore Sportsground, finals-chasing Sydney Olympic were left frustrated when a match which they thoroughly dominated ended in a 1-1 draw.

Despite missing top-scorers Tolgay Ozbey and Matthew Mayora, Olympic went into the ascendancy from the outset. In the fifth minute, a cross from Emmanuel Giannaros evaded the United defence; Anthony Doumanis shot at goal, but United keeper Vedran Janjetovic managed to palm the ball over the by-line. From the resulting corner, Olympic captain Michael Cindric went close with a free header.

On 11 minutes, Janjetovic was called into action for a second time, turning Iain Ramsay's fine free

kick onto the post. Three minutes later Ramsay was involved again, sending in a corner from the right which Joe Vrkic headed off the United line; soon afterwards, another header from Cindric flew inches wide of Janjetovic's far post. All the pressure was being applied by the hosts.

United's few first-half chances arose from the wayward goal-kicks of Mark Bosnich, still struggling with the injury that kept him out of the clash with Sydney FC last week. Just after the half-hour, Bosnich was challenged by Luka Glavas on the edge of the Olympic area, and lost the ball to the lanky United striker. Olympic's marquee man was relieved to see Glavas' cross-shot evade the far post.

There was partial redemption for Bosnich two minutes later, when he did well to get a fingertip to a dangerous Glavas cross. The Olympic offensive continued unabated, Peter McPherson's shot on 38 minutes taking a deflection before sailing marginally over the bar; seconds afterwards, an alert save from Janjetovic denied Emmanuel Zunino, who had crept up from the back to glide Chris Triantis' left-wing cross goalwards.

For all their territorial dominance, Olympic almost went into the sheds trailing the league leaders, when Glavas flicked on a cross from Mitchell Thompson to his strike partner Elsid Barkhousir. The latter, however, only managed to chest the ball wide.

At the start of the second period, Olympic coach Nick Theodorakopoulos shifted Adam Biddle to the left, and the young winger thrived in his new position. Surging down the flank on 54 minutes, he managed to jab the ball inside for Doumanis, who inexplicably prodded the ball away for a distant team-mate, despite being two yards from goal with only the keeper to beat.

Bosnich again showed a glimpse of his quality on 58 minutes by saving well from Glavas, who had been put through cleverly by United substitute Lisandro Berbis. The home side had even more reason to be thankful to their star recruit six minutes later, when a swift united break reached Glavas on

the right: his shot was a good one, but Bosnich was equal to it, diving to his left and bundling the ball over the by-line.

On 66 minutes, mayhem. A smart pass from Ramsay found Paul Wither thundering into the United box in typical style; Janjetovic advanced and managed to gather the ball, but threw a punch at Wither in his follow-through. Referee Srebre Delovski was on the spot, and immediately flashed a red card at the young United keeper, as tempers began to boil over.

Some minutes later, order was restored and Doumanis prepared to take the penalty, against United's substitute keeper Michael Frost. Over the bar it went: United were still alive.

Another fine run from Biddle on the left resulted in another chance for Doumanis, which was spurned. But on 70 minutes, Olympic's main provider turned poacher, and the hosts went ahead. Wither did well to hold onto the ball in the box and work it to the left for Biddle, whose low right-footed shot skidded past Frost and in.

It looked like being the decisive moment, but on 73 minutes, the match took a dramatic turn. Peter Markovic, on as a substitute for United, beat two men on the left and let fly at goal. There was little force behind the shot, but it had caught Bosnich a long way off his line; the Olympic keeper scurried back, but could only watch as the ball crept into the far corner. All square once more.

Forward came Olympic again, but the virtue went out of the hosts with that traumatising goal. McPherson had one half-chance, Biddle another, but Olympic rarely looked like breaking the deadlock in the final minutes, despite their one-man advantage. Instead, it was United who went closest to stealing the points, when Glavas' centre from the left was met by Berbis in the final minute of injury time. Hurrying his shot, Berbis failed to find the target, and soon afterwards the whistle blew. Two precious points lost for Olympic, as their finals hopes take a serious dent.

FNSW RD 20 RESULTS												
		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P			
1	Sydney United	20	11	7	2	38	20	18	40			
2	Bankstown City	20	11	5	4	37	26	11	38			
3	Manly United FC	20	9	7	4	29	19	10	34			
4	Marconi Stallions	20	9	6	5	40	20	20	33			
5	Sutherland Sharks	20	8	8	4	40	25	15	32			
6	Sydney Olympic	20	8	4	8	35	37	-2	28			
7	West Syd Berries	20	7	5	8	34	36	-2	26			
8	Bonnyrigg White E	20	6	7	7	27	37	-10	25			
9	Penrith Nepean U	20	6	5	9	19	28	-9	23			
10	Blacktown City	20	5	7	8	22	27	-5	22			
11	Sydney Tigers	20	4	7	9	23	30	-7	19			
12	Wollongong FC	20	1	2	17	13	52	-39	5			

TELECHOICE PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 20: FIRST GRADE: Manly United FC 0 Blacktown City Demons 1 (Gavin Forbes 39m), Sydney Tigers 1 (Robert Younis 40m) Marconi Stallions 1 (Ousmane Toure 70m), Sydney Olympic 1 (Adam Biddle 70m) Sydney United 1 (Peter Markovic 71m). Penrith Nepean United 0 Bankstown City 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Mark D'Alessandro 58m) Sutherland Sharks 3 (Panagiotis Nikas 50m Bradley Boardman 53/90m), West Sydney Berries 6 (John Tsironis 44/79/92m Dimitri Zakilas 54m Chris Gaitatzis 78m Liam Austin 89m) Wollongong FC 1 (Ilija Prenzoski 8m).

GRADE 20: Manly United FC 1 Blacktown City Demons 1, Sydney Tigers 2 Marconi Stallions 2, Sydney Olympic 3 Sydney United 1. **GRADE 18:** Sydney Olympic 1 Sydney United 4. Penrith Nepean United 3 Bankstown City 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Sutherland Sharks 1, West Sydney Berries 6 Wollongong FC 2.

By Mike Salter
In Sydney

SOUTH HOBART CATCH ZEBRAS IN TASMANIA

South Hobart drew level with Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League leaders Tilford Zebras after beating bottom-side University 2-0 at KGV Park on Thursday night.

Zebras stay first on goal-difference, but South Hobart, the reigning champions, have a game in hand.

South squandered an early penalty, Hugh Ludford having his spot-kick saved by Hamish Peacock, but a well-rehearsed move put South ahead in the 38th minute. Kostas Kanakaris's corner from the left aimed at the near post was flicked on by Josh Heerey, and Gary Upton volleyed home at the far post.

Bart Beecroft hit South's second in the 72nd minute after Johnathon Merry deflected a cross from the left out to the midfielder lurking on the edge of the box. The defeat left University isolated at the foot of the ladder, seven points behind second-last Clarence United.

New Town Eagles, who had been second-last, leap-frogged Clarence into sixth spot by downing fifth-placed Kingborough Lions United 5-2 in the main feature of Thursday night's double-header.

Both sides missed glorious chances, but Eagles' deadly counter-attacks decided the match.

Adam McKeown put Eagles ahead in the 20th minute, but Marcello Marchioli equalised five minutes later after Eagles captain Chris Wass had conceded a free-kick on the edge of the box.

Cormac Collins restored Eagles' advantage

on the half-hour with a ferocious strike from the left to give his side a 2-1 lead at the interval.

Shane Kent made it 3-1 midway through the second half before Marchioli struck again and made it a goal the difference with 13 minutes remaining. Nine minutes from the end, Alex Leszczynski squeezed a shot under Kingborough keeper David Leamey to give Eagles a 4-2 lead.

With two minutes remaining, a brilliant counter-attack by Eagles resulted in an own goal by Kingborough's Andrew Kerr, who put the ball into his own net while trying to stop Jacob Malakoff finishing off McKeown's precise pass.

In Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League games played today, Prospect Knights beat Riverside Olympic 1-0 at Harley Parade, and the visiting Burnie United overcame Launceston City 2-1 at Mitsubishi Park.

The win put fourth-placed Prospect Knights level on points with third-placed Somerset, while third-last Burnie stayed in seventh spot but increased the distance between them and second-last Launceston City to 7 points. Clarence United reached their first Tasmanian State-wide cup final ever when they beat Tilford Zebras 3-1 at home at Wentworth Park on Saturday evening in the semi-finals of the Milan Lakoseljic Memorial Trophy competition.

In the final, they will meet Northern Rangers, who downed Somerset 5-3 away at Cardigan Street the same afternoon in the other semi-final.



Gary Upton...scored first goal for South Hobart against University

Ben Hamlett netted twice for Clarence, including from a penalty, while Sam McIntyre scored the eastern Shore side's other goal.

Jayden Welch had given Zebras an early lead. Zebras' Paul Cairns and Clarence's Andy Barron were both sent off. Former Clarence player Paul Bremner scored twice for Rangers in their win over Somerset, the othe goals coming from Andrew Nicholson, Sam Luck and Mark Ambrose.

Somerset's marksmen were George Miller, with two goals, and Barry Hamilton.

By Walter Pless
Photo by Walter Pless

TAS SOUTHERN LEAGUE												
		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt				
	Tilford Zebras	18	12	2	4	69	36	38				
	South Hobart	17	12	2	3	41	10	38				
	Glenorchy Knights	17	10	2	5	43	36	32				
	Hobart Olympic	18	6	3	9	26	45	21				
	Kingborough Lions	17	5	5	7	37	42	20				
	New Town Eagles	18	5	3	10	34	42	18				
	Clarence United	16	5	3	8	28	38	18				
	University	17	3	2	12	14	43	11				

TAS NORTHERN LEAGUE												
		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt				
	Northern Rangers	13	9	2	2	35	10	29				
	Devonport City	12	9	1	2	41	16	28				
	Somerset	14	8	1	5	33	21	25				
	Prospect Knights	13	8	1	4	29	20	25				
	Ulverstone	14	7	1	6	28	24	22				
	Riverside Olympic	13	6	1	6	31	24	19				
	Burnie United	13	5	0	8	27	33	15				
	Launceston City	13	2	2	9	14	32	8				

Issue 19

King Of The Kids



CALL TO ARMS

**PORT MELBOURNE V KINGSTON
@ PORT MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB,
SS ANDERSON RESERVE
SATURDAY 8th August 2009
RESERVES KO 3PM SENIORS KO 5PM**

The Port Melbourne Sharks is supporting Men's Cancer by joining the Call to Arms campaign. We will donate \$500 from gate takings and all donations collected on the day will be forwarded to the Cancer Foundation. We invite all clubs to come down and enjoy a day of soccer knowing they are contributing to help fight the cause. We ask all members, card holders and juniors to donate a gold coin upon entry to contribute towards the fundraising. Our reserve and senior players will wear yellow arm bands in support of Men's Cancer. Our hearts are out to all who are going through the fight to beat cancer.

'We will always fight on'

If you would like to make a donation please go to:

www.calltoarms.com.au

You can donate as an individual or as part of the club.

DEVILS REMAIN IN THE HUNT

Brunswick City 0 Thomastown Devils 2

Brunswick City's promotion aspirations were comprehensively quashed in Friday night's encounter with Thomastown as they were soundly beaten 2-0.

Brunswick's loose marking and naivety proved their nemesis as ex Victorian schoolboy representative, Simon Lamanda, completed a one man demolition job on the visiting team and in doing so evaporated any essence of hope that Brunswick had of playing in State League 1 in 2010.

John Montagnese's team showed that they were the real deal as they scored twice in the first half to put the match out of reach of the visitors. The win puts his team in third spot only three points behind North Geelong and considering the depth and quality of the squad they are a realistic chance of challenging for the title in 2009.

On a cold evening but on a perfect surface for football it was the home team that got off to a perfect start as Simon Lamanda got a free

header in the 18 yard box from a set piece which he cleverly put away past the outstretched hand of Dimitropoulos in goals for Brunswick. Brunswick tried valiantly to get back into the game and had a lion share of the possession but their inability to be creative and their predictability made it simple for John Angelovski and his peers to repel any attacks.

Brunswick's only chance of the half came in the 22' when a cross from the right found young Dimitri Vithoiulkas unmarked 15 yards out. He shot hard, low and on target but Thomastown's custodian, Ciric, was brilliant in getting down quickly and making a fine save. The half continued to roll on with Brunswick dominating possession but it was Thomastown who was more methodical and created the better chances.

In fact Lamanda almost made it 2-0 in the 43' when from close range Dimitropoulos was forced to make a fine save. He made amends for his miss in the following minute as he was brought down by Adam Garisto after being cleverly put through on goal. Referee Phil Taverna had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot which duly converted by Simon himself ensuring a brace for the match.

At the major break Ciantar was left bewildered by his team's performance as he made two changes. He needed an early goal but it was the home team that began in a more fruitful manner as Mark Pistininzi almost made it 3-0 had it not

Nick Veljovic played as a screen behind Kerr and Hughes and the tactic worked a treat.

Barrero drove a fierce shot narrowly wide before he was instrumental in setting up Knox's first goal. Hughes' pass freed him down the right flank and he skipped past two defenders before an inch perfect cross found Valadon. The striker made no mistake with a bullet header from close range.

Heatherton's attacks came largely from Knox trying to over elaborate in midfield and giving the ball away.

Just before the break, Valadon and Cameron Jones combined well in the attacking third before Jones shot just over the bar. Woods also went close as the first half came to a close. Jorgensen in the Knox goal had largely been a spectator in the first half.

The second period started in the same vein. A quick free kick from Kerr released Nick Veljovic and his cross flashed across the goal line before it was scrambled for a corner. Then Jackson released Valadon with a great through

BILL TURNER CUP VICTORIA 2009



Bendigo South East College Boys. Back: Rowan Muller (Student coach), Nathan Hamblin, Harley Dunlop, Bowen Ahearn, Jake Van Dalen, Liam Byrne, Oscar Thomas, Lonain Burnett, Aaron Mertens, Ernie Fleming (Coach). Front row: Billy Schintler, Cal Gibson, Nic Waterson, Riley Harrington, Kailane-Uren, Nathan Pollock, JohnWoodward & Hugh Molenaar. In front is keeper Robert Munday.



The Bendigo South East Girls before beating Leeton 10-0 recently.
Back: Tayla Evans, Ella Neivandt, Ebony Kennedy, Molly Forde, Marita Rinaldi, Laini Luatutu, Liz Watkins, Michelle Robinson, Rebecca Adams, Natalie Bamforth & Coach Ernie Fleming
Front: Rosie Armstrong-Dwyer, Tarnay Sass, Ebony Jade Jones, Bella King, Morgan Roylance (keeper), Bec Berry, Madie Leskie & Susan Hamilton.

Qualifying Round:
Notre Dame, Shepparton d Wodonga Catholic School 0
Round 1: Galam College, Wangaratta d Notre Dame, Shepparton 0
Bendigo South East College 2 d Weeroona, Bendigo 0
Round 2: Bendigo South East College 2 d Galam College, Wangaratta

BILL TURNER TROPHY – GIRLS VICTORIA 2009

Round 1: Bendigo South East College 4 d Notre Dame, Shepparton 0
Galam College, Wangaratta 3 d Wodonga Catholic 0
Round 2: Bendigo South East College 8 d Galam College, Wangaratta
For all other information please go to www.billturnersoccer.com.au
It's well worth a look!

been for the heroics of Con Dimitropoulos in goals for Brunswick who denied the striker from getting on the scoresheet.

Lamanda continued to cause havoc playing with an air of confidence rarely seen at this level. His dipping left foot crack from 25 yards out only narrowly missed the target in the 60' causing further headaches for Brunswick's coaching team. Brunswick tired too quickly raising concerns over the fitness of some of its starting line up, namely Squillaciotti and Madarovski in midfield.

In fact it was almost embarrassing to see Brunswick's stalwarts (Danos, J.Vouloumanos and C.Vouloumanos) being the major contributors considering these boys have seen their best days pass them by already. Brunswick's only real chance of the second half arose when substitute, David Garisto, sent a shot goalwards only to see Ciric make another fine save down low. Brunswick's main problem again was their inability to penetrate the 'Devils' defence led ably by Angelovski and Awad but their predictability and lack of imagination and creativity was also one of the lowlights in this encounter.

Two very poor performances must have Ciantar thinking whether he should dispense with his high profile players and replace them with some of the talented young players in the reserves which could hold the key to future success for the 'Blues'.

pass but Kumalic in the Heatherton goal was alert and came out quickly to smother the ball.

Heatherton then took control for the next period as they pushed forward for the equaliser. Klehic broke down the left and only Jorgensen's quick reactions saved the day for Knox. A major scare occurred next as Knox failed to deal with a corner and Sanita's header was cleared off the line by Hughes. Jorgensen then came out smartly to dive at the onrushing forward's feet.

At this stage, Knox was sitting too deep in defence allowing the visitors to push forward in numbers.

Out of the blue, Knox wrapped up the game with its second goal. In the 65th minute, a short goal kick to the visitors was nothing short of a disaster and Jones nipped in to win the ball and then beat Kumalic from close range.

Knox held on for a deserved victory which came without too many worries as the defence held firm.

Knox City Reserves went five points clear at the top of their table when they comprehensive-

The Brunswick City reserve team had a humbling loss as they were completely dominated in a 6-2 loss. Brunswick's two goals came through Tsaboukas and Atzarakis.

Goalscorers: Simon Lamanda 15' and 44' pen (Thomastown)

**Best: Danos, J. Vouloumanos, C. Vouloumanos (Brunswick)
Lamanda, Culculoglou, Angelovski, Awad (Thomastown)**

**Line ups:
Brunswick City: (Ciantar) Dimitropoulos, Danos, A. Garisto, J. Vouloumanos, Suesspeck, Cicchiti (62' Ridis), Madarovski, Squilaciotti, Stafrace (46' D. Garisto), C. Vouloumanos, Vithoulkas (46' Defeo)**

Thomastown Devils: (Montagnese) Ciric, Angelovski, Awad, Damiano, Culculoglu, M. Pistininzi, Spiteri, D. Pistininzi (85' Marando), Robertson, Lazarevski (81' Nunez), Lamanda (70' Girantanta)

By Loui Simopoulos

State League NW 2

ly beat Heatherton Utd 8-0. The young Knox side continues to improve. A 2-0 half time score turned into a rout in the second half as goals came in regular intervals.

Knox City: M. Jorgensen, J. Woods (N. Giannopoulos – 72nd), A. Edgar, C. Kerr, S. Barrero, A. Jackson, A. Hughes, Z. Martinez, J. Valadon (D. Veljovic – 87th), N. Veljovic, C. Jones (M. Hoogendyk – 82nd). Sub not used: B. Kasehagen.

Heatherton Utd: F. Kumalic, P. Ryan Don, M. Mentor, J. Kaczmariski, D. Drperis, D. Cirkic (M. Klehic – 46th), M. Skenderovic, N. D'Angelo, A. Slaeh (G. Roberts – 25th), A. Memdovski (M. Roberts – 65th), C. Sanita. Subs not used: A. Sabitovic, E. Trakoscevic.

By Bruce Darnell

State League Division 2 SE

KNOX BREAKS LOSING STREAK

Knox City 2 Heatherton Utd 0

Knox City broke a three game losing streak and moved up one place in State League Division Two when they accounted for Heatherton United by two goals to nil at Egan Lee Reserve on Saturday.

Knox were well worth the three points as they dominated the game except for 15 minutes midway through the second half, when they lost their shape for a period.

Playing against the wind in the first half, Knox was straight on to the attack and threatened with two free kicks in dangerous positions in the first five minutes. A re-organised midfield allowed Knox to control the middle third of the park.

EAGLES PUSH NORTHCOTE

Greens Keep Up The Chase, Langy Wins Derby

In a week of predictable results in round sixteen of State League One, the ladder has remained virtually unchanged with Northcote and Bentleigh continuing to control the top two spots.

In a surprisingly close contest, Northcote City defeated Springvale 3-2 at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday to maintain their monopoly on first place. While they may have appeared much further apart on paper; with Northcote's one loss this season to date contrasting to the White Eagles' measly two wins, Springvale proved they were no walk-over with the half-time score at 1-1 after goals to City's Trent Rixon and White Eagle Grujo Mrdic. Dimitrios Archimandritis restored the order when he put Northcote in the lead again after the break, though before long; Colin Woods found the equaliser to give his side hope of rescuing a draw. However, Northcote could breathe a collective sigh of relief when Adriano Chiapetta scored his side's third goal; which proved to be the difference between the sides in the end.

Bentleigh remain in pursuit of Northcote after emerging victors yesterday over Clifton Hill at Kingston Heath. The Greens kicked off to arguably the worst start possible; falling behind to an own goal early, a lead which Clifton Hill were lucky to be able to protect until half time. Nick Robinson netted his side's first goal after the break to put Bentleigh back on level terms before, yet again; Nick Harrhy came to the rescue of the Greens, scoring the goal to win the game for the home team.

In the only mildly unexpected result of the weekend; Pascoe Vale overtook St Albans with a 2-1 win at Hosken Reserve on Saturday; in the process arresting the Saints' three-game winning streak. Emerging all guns blazing from kick off; Pascoe Vale's Luca Santilli scored two first-half goals in quick succession to give his side all the momentum heading into the second half. After the break though, St Albans' Mark Paleka pulled one goal back to ensure the game would finish in thrilling style; although the visitors did not manage to find the equalising goal, meaning Vale jump into fifth place.

The fourth-placed Fawkner Blues managed to keep alive their hopes of returning to the Premier League next season with a 2-1 defeat of the bottom of the table Southern Stars at CB Smith Reserve yesterday. With scores level at half time; after goals to the Blues' Adam Zilic and the Stars' Fatih Akdogan, the visitors appeared a realistic chance to pull off a major upset; and at the same time record their first win since round three. Although the miracle was not to happen, with Dusko Delic sparing Fawkner major embarrassment with the goal which secured victory for the Blues.

In the Peninsula Derby between Frankston and Langwarrin at Monterey Reserve on Saturday night, Caleb Nicholes proved to be the only difference between the sides. Both sides created few realistic chances, which meant Nicholes' goal which put Langwarrin in front at half time gave the feeling it was enough for the away side to take all three points. Though the Pines threw all they could muster at the Langwarrin defence in the second half, nothing was enough to penetrate the resolute last line of the visitors, who held on for their sixth win of the season.



Opa! George Giannou (Northcote) turns contortionist as he tries to take the ball off Simon Webster (Springvale WE). Photo by John Punshon.



Harry Kinigopoulos (Northcote) in control against Kruno Stanisic (Springvale WE). Photo by John Punshon.



Action from the peninsula derby between Langwarrin and Frankston Pines. Photo by Darl Kennedy.



Northcote defender Adrian Chiapetta blocks Zoran Vukas' attempt to put one away for Springvale White Eagles. Photo by John Punshon.

RESULTS

Northcote City 3
(T Rixon D Archimandritis A Chiapetta)
Springvale White Eagles 2
(G Mrdic CP Woods)

Pascoe Vale 2 (L Santilli 2)
St Albans Saints 1 (M Paleka)

Frankston Pines 0
Langwarrin 1 (C Nicholes)

Fawkner Blues 2 (Al Zilic D Delic)
Southern Stars 1 (F Akdogan)

Bentleigh Greens 2 (N Harrhy)
Clifton Hill 1 (Own Goal)

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Northcote City	16	11	4	1	33	17	37
Bentleigh Greens	15	10	3	2	24	13	33
FC Bulleen Lions	15	8	2	5	30	20	26
Fawkner Blues	16	7	4	5	21	21	25
Pascoe Vale	16	5	7	4	13	14	22
St Albans Saints	15	9	3	3	30	17	21
Langwarrin	16	6	2	8	26	28	20
Western Suburbs	15	5	3	7	23	20	18
Clifton Hill	16	3	6	7	22	29	15
Springvale White E	16	2	5	9	23	31	11
Frankston Pines	15	1	7	7	7	21	10
Southern Stars	15	1	4	10	12	33	7

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Langwarrin v Pascoe Vale
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM

Northcote City v Clifton Hill
John Cain Memorial Park
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Frankston Pines
Ross Reserve
Sat 1 Aug KO 3:00PM

Springvale White E v Fawkner Blues
White Eagles Stadium
Sat 1 Aug KO 6:30PM

St Albans Saints v FC Bulleen Lions
Churchill Reserve
Sat 2 Aug KO 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Bentleigh Greens
Ralph Reserve
Sat 2 Aug KO 3:00PM

RESERVE DETAILS

Northcote City 4 Springvale White Eagles 2, Pascoe Vale 0 St Albans Saints 0, Frankston Pines 0 Langwarrin 2, Fawkner Blues 0 Southern Stars 1, Bentleigh Greens 3 Clifton Hill 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bentleigh Greens	14	11	1	2	43	12	34
Western Suburbs	15	8	6	1	34	19	30
FC Bulleen Lions	15	9	1	5	34	21	28
Pascoe Vale	16	6	6	4	26	20	24
Fawkner Blues	16	6	4	6	20	26	22
Southern Stars	15	7	1	7	21	30	22
Langwarrin	15	6	3	6	24	14	21
Frankston Pines	15	7	0	8	20	25	21
Northcote City	16	5	6	6	29	30	20
Clifton Hill	16	3	4	9	24	39	13
Springvale White E	16	4	1	11	23	43	13
St Albans Saints	15	3	2	10	20	39	11

ByJeremy O'Neill
Divvie One Wrap

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

Thomastown Devils 2 (S Lamanda 2) Brunswick City 0, Altona City 1 (AT Philip) Altona East Phoenix 1 (S Iosifidis), Geelong Rangers 1 (J Blackburn) Werribee City 3 (JC Spiteri 3), Keilor Park 2 (A El Dib M Mohamed) North Geelong Warriors 3 (A Cervinski M Kuna 2), Sydenham Park 3 Ballarat Red Devils 0

Thomastown Devils 6 Brunswick City 2, Altona City 2 Altona East Phoenix 0, Geelong Rangers 0 Werribee City 0, Keilor Park 2 North Geelong Warriors 1, Sydenham Park 1 Ballarat Red Devils 3,

P

W

D

L

F

A

PT

North Geelong Warriors

16

10

1

5

28

15

31

Werribee City

16

8

5

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27

12

29

Thomastown Devils

16

7

7

2

18

14

28

Altona City

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25

22

25

Altona East Phoenix

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6

6

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17

12

24

Brunswick City

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6

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4

19

17

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Sydenham Park

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6

19

26

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Williamstown

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7

13

18

16

Ballarat Red Devils

16

3

7

6

13

23

16

Geelong Rangers

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4

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27

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Westgate

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24

14

Keilor Park

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19

13

Keilor Park

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12

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2

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13

38

Ballarat Red Devils

16

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5

1

43

14

35

Altona City

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3

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24

14

30

Thomastown Devils

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32

17

28

Williamstown

15

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16

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Geelong Rangers

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24

25

Altona East Phoenix

16

6

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8

12

20

20

North Geelong Warriors

16

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Brunswick City

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Sydenham Park

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22

39

14

Werribee City

16

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Westgate

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Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Banyule City 1 (M Panaghis) La Trobe University 0, North Sunshine Eagles 0 Loral 2 (D Christou K Vaskoski), Melbourne University Rangers 1 (MR Godel) Cairnlea 2 (P Rutkowski T Markovski), Moreland City 1 (JJ Pepe) Geelong 0, Maribyrnong Greens 1 (A Chelidonis) Hume Utd 1 (A Kalayci), Yarraville Glory 2 (S Kalow P Pasgas) Westvale 1 (DJ Perri)

Banyule City 4 La Trobe University 1, North Sunshine Eagles 2 Loral 0, Melbourne University Rangers 3 Cairnlea 2, Moreland City 0 Geelong 0, Maribyrnong Greens 0 Hume Utd 3, Yarraville Glory 1 Westvale 0

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Banyule City

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Maribyrnong Greens

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Yarraville Glory

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Cairnlea

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Moreland City

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Hume Utd

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Loral

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La Trobe University

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Geelong

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Westvale

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Melbourne Uni Rangers

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North Sunshine Eagles

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Melbourne Uni Rangers

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Maribyrnong Greens

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Yarraville Glory

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Geelong

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Cairnlea

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Westvale

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North Sunshine Eagles

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Loral

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Seniors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST							Reserves									
Laverton Park 1 (R Castro) Whittlesea Utd 2 (S Mirik T Altanhan), Elwood City 3 (J Oakes) Lalor Utd 0, Corio 1 (G Grigg) Essendon Utd 2 (P Devuono 2), Melbourne City 2 FC Strathmore 1, Northern Falcons 1 (A Pizzo) Western Eagles 0, South Yarra 0 Sunbury Utd 0								Laverton Park 0 Whittlesea Utd 3, Elwood City 1 Lalor Utd 0, Corio 0 Essendon Utd 2, Melbourne City 1 FC Strathmore 6, Northern Falcons 0 Western Eagles 3, South Yarra 2 Sunbury Utd 0									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Sunbury Utd	16	11	4	1	36	10	37		South Yarra	16	13	1	2	36	14	40	
Essendon Utd	16	10	2	4	33	21	32		Essendon Utd	16	12	3	1	36	13	39	
Whittlesea Utd	16	10	1	5	29	19	31		Sunbury Utd	16	11	1	4	24	16	34	
South Yarra	16	8	4	4	20	18	28		Elwood City	16	10	1	5	37	21	31	
Laverton Park	16	7	5	4	27	20	26		FC Strathmore	16	8	1	7	23	16	25	
FC Strathmore	16	6	5	5	22	19	23		Whittlesea Utd	16	6	3	7	25	36	21	
Corio	16	5	3	8	19	26	18		Melbourne City	16	5	5	6	21	26	20	
Elwood City	16	5	2	9	22	26	17		Laverton Park	16	5	4	7	23	27	19	
Melbourne City	16	4	3	9	19	40	15		Lalor Utd	16	5	3	8	24	31	18	
Lalor Utd	16	4	2	10	17	24	14		Northern Falcons	16	4	1	11	12	21	13	
Northern Falcons	16	4	3	9	15	26	14		Western Eagles	16	2	4	10	17	29	10	
Western Eagles	16	3	4	9	18	28	12		Corio	16	0	3	13	14	42	3	

Seniors	PROVI 2 NORTH WEST										Reserves						
Hoppers Crossing 1 (AP Vella) Bell Park 3 (LH Nelson D Nelson N Hopper), Collingwood City 3 (A Sewell B Nuka SD Olliver) Watsonia Heights 0, Moreland Utd Melbourne Tornado , Darebin Utd 0 North City Lions 2, Avondale Heights 1 (D Cooke) West Preston 1 (J Hristoforidis), Epping City 0 Plenty Valley Lions 3 (J Lazorov N Filin I Georgiev)																	
Hoppers Crossing 2 Bell Park 3, Collingwood City 1 Watsonia Heights 0, Moreland Utd 1 Melbourne Tornado 2, Darebin Utd 0 North City Lions 6, Avondale Heights 2 West Preston 2, Epping City 3 Plenty Valley Lions 2																	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Avondale Heights	16	9	5	2	43	16	32		Epping City	16	14	2	0	45	17	44	
North City Lions	16	9	4	3	41	16	31		Collingwood City	16	11	1	4	45	21	34	
Moreland Utd	15	9	1	5	27	28	28		North City Lions	16	10	3	3	39	19	33	
West Preston	16	6	7	3	26	21	25		Hoppers Crossing	16	8	4	4	38	28	28	
Epping City	16	7	3	6	25	26	24		Avondale Heights	16	8	4	4	31	22	28	
Bell Park	16	6	5	5	26	28	23		Bell Park	16	8	2	6	38	25	26	
Collingwood City	16	6	4	6	27	28	22		Watsonia Heights	16	6	1	9	27	21	19	
Plenty Valley Lions	16	5	5	6	21	27	20		Melbourne Tornado	16	4	4	8	24	37	16	
Hoppers Crossing	16	5	4	7	20	30	19		Moreland Utd	16	2	6	8	16	28	12	
Melbourne Tornado	15	4	3	8	18	27	15		Plenty Valley Lions	16	3	2	11	28	41	11	
Watsonia Heights	16	1	8	7	17	27	11		West Preston	16	2	4	10	27	53	10	
Darebin Utd	16	2	3	11	13	30	9		Darebin Utd	16	2	3	11	19	65	9	

Seniors	PROVI 3 NORTH WEST										Reserves					
Brimbank Stallions 1 (J Laguna) Brunswick Zebras 1 (C Luca), Ascot Vale 0 Bundoora Utd 3 (D Chiodo NS Coyle 2), Melton 3 (J Groba P Matusiewicz 2) Mill Park 1 (T Athanasios), Brimbank City 2 (A Kablar M Arslan) Surf Coast 1 (J Taylor), Keon Park 2 (Y Rousalis 2) Youth Utd 0, Keilor Wolves 0 Upfield 4																
Brimbank Stallions 2 Brunswick Zebras 0, Ascot Vale 1 Bundoora Utd 4, Melton 9 Mill Park 0, Brimbank City 0 Surf Coast 2, Keon Park 2 Youth Utd 3, Keilor Wolves 0 Upfield 2																
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T								
Melton	16	9	4	3	37	26	31		Brimbank City	16	11	3	2	40	18	36
Brimbank City	16	9	4	3	28	17	31		Bundoora Utd	16	10	3	3	51	24	33
Surf Coast	15	9	3	3	31	8	30		Surf Coast	15	10	2	3	52	16	32
Youth Utd	15	9	3	3	23	10	30		Melton	16	9	5	2	45	19	32
Upfield	15	8	3	4	38	19	27		Upfield	15	9	3	3	44	21	30
Brimbank Stallions	16	7	3	6	24	25	24		Youth Utd	16	7	5	4	29	26	26
Brunswick Zebras	16	6	3	7	28	33	21		Brimbank Stallions	16	7	1	8	21	20	22
Bundoora Utd	15	4	4	7	31	27	16		Keilor Wolves	16	5	3	8	27	37	18
Keon Park	15	5	1	9	13	34	16		Brunswick Zebras	16	5	2	9	25	30	17
Mill Park	16	4	3	9	15	29	15		Mill Park	16	3	3	10	19	47	12
Keilor Wolves	16	4	2	10	29	39	14		Ascot Vale	16	2	1	13	11	52	4
Ascot Vale	15	2	1	12	13	43	4		Keon Park	16	0	3	13	12	66	3

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 2										Reserves						
Diamond Valley Utd 0 Malvern City 2 (A D'Ortenzio R Swingler), South Springvale 3 (A Koloskopis PS Lithotomos S Groom) Casey Comets 1 (L Ryan), Port Melbourne 1 (P Tsonis) Morwell Pegasus 2 (CT Bell PM Kirby), Dandenong City 1 (I Gelemanovic) Doncaster Rovers 3 (LR Sibanda M Santoro J Barrientos), Eastern Lions 4 (A Karanicolas P McEvoy O Harel Own Goal) Kingston City 1 (A Akrivopoulos), Knox City 2 (J Valadon CC Jones) Heatherton Utd 0																	
Diamond Valley Utd 2 Malvern City 0, South Springvale 4 Casey Comets 2, Port Melbourne 2 Morwell Pegasus 2, Dandenong City 1 Doncaster Rovers 3, Eastern Lions 3 Kingston City 0, Knox City 8 Heatherton Utd 0																	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Doncaster Rovers	16	11	3	2	36	19	36		Knox City	16	12	2	2	48	12	38	
Malvern City	16	10	1	5	44	23	31		Doncaster Rovers	16	10	3	3	56	18	33	
Diamond Valley Utd	16	7	5	4	28	21	26		Port Melbourne	16	10	2	4	52	25	32	
Heatherton Utd	16	8	2	6	28	26	26		Eastern Lions	16	10	2	4	30	13	32	
Morwell Pegasus	16	8	2	6	28	29	26		Dandenong City	16	9	3	4	37	31	30	
Eastern Lions	16	8	1	7	30	24	25		Diamond Valley Utd	16	8	4	4	25	27	28	
Port Melbourne	16	5	5	6	18	21	20		Morwell Pegasus	16	6	4	6	34	24	22	
Dandenong City	16	5	5	6	31	36	20		Casey Comets	16	5	2	9	31	30	17	
Knox City	16	4	5	7	14	25	17		Malvern City	16	4	1	11	27	40	13	
Casey Comets	16	4	3	9	18	33	15		Kingston City	16	4	1	11	14	38	13	
South Springvale	16	3	4	9	22	28	13		South Springvale	16	2	3	11	22	65	9	
Kingston City	16	3	4	9	26	38	10		Heatherton Utd	16	2	1	13	17	70	7	

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 3										Reserves						
Croydon City Arrows 4 (BA Roper DD McCandless 2) Peninsula Strikers 0, Southern Suburbs 0 Noble Park Utd 0, Springvale City 3 (A Karic 2 A Lolic) Brandon Park 1 (R Benedos), Nunawading City 2 (J Ivanov) Waverley Wanderers 0, Berwick City 1 (J Ash) Boroondara Eagles 0											Croydon City Arrows 2 Peninsula Strikers 2, Southern Suburbs 5 Noble Park Utd 2, Springvale City 0 Brandon Park 0, Nunawading City 0 Waverley Wanderers 0, Berwick City 1 Boroondara Eagles 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Berwick City	16	9	4	3	27	14	31		Sandringham City	15	12	2	1	41	11	38	
Southern Suburbs	16	7	7	2	25	14	28		Berwick City	16	9	3	4	49	26	30	
Noble Park Utd	16	8	4	4	35	30	28		Peninsula Strikers	16	7	5	4	31	24	26	
Springvale City	16	7	6	3	27	20	27		Brandon Park	16	7	4	5	27	23	25	
Brandon Park	16	6	5	5	23	18	23		North Caulfield	15	7	2	6	35	17	23	
Peninsula Strikers	16	6	5	5	27	24	23		Croydon City Arrows	16	7	1	8	31	25	22	
Nunawading City	16	5	6	5	19	13	21		Nunawading City	15	6	4	5	27	24	22	
Waverley Wanderers	16	3	8	5	13	15	17		Southern Suburbs	16	5	3	8	26	41	18	
Croydon City Arrows	16	3	7	6	15	21	16		Noble Park Utd	16	5	2	9	30	48	17	
North Caulfield	15	3	6	6	13	21	15		Waverley Wanderers	15	4	4	7	19	38	16	
Boroondara Eagles	16	4	2	10	17	30	14		Boroondara Eagles	16	3	4	9	13	26	13	
Sandringham City	15	3	2	10	18	39	11		Springvale City	16	3	4	9	17	43	13	